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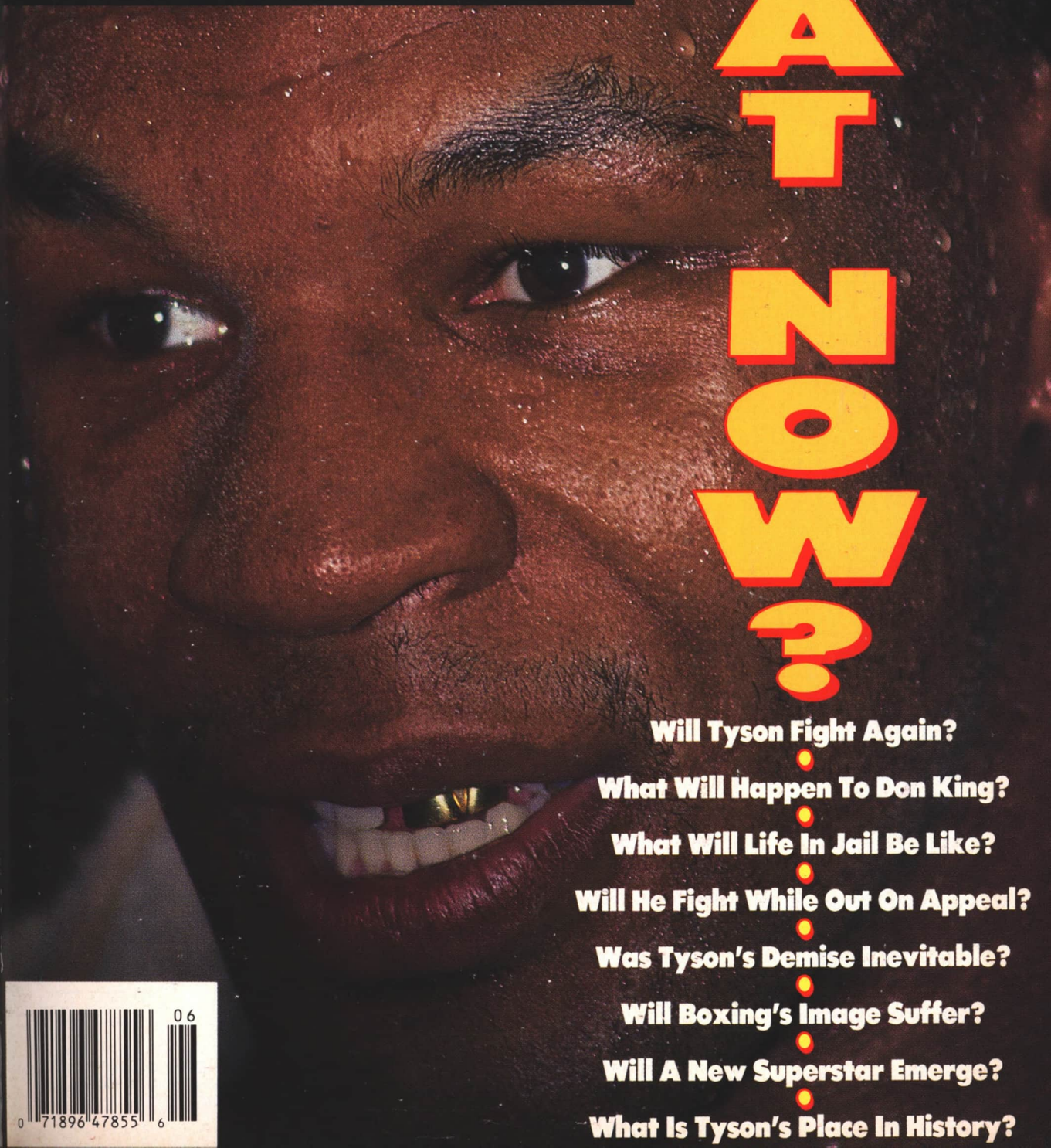

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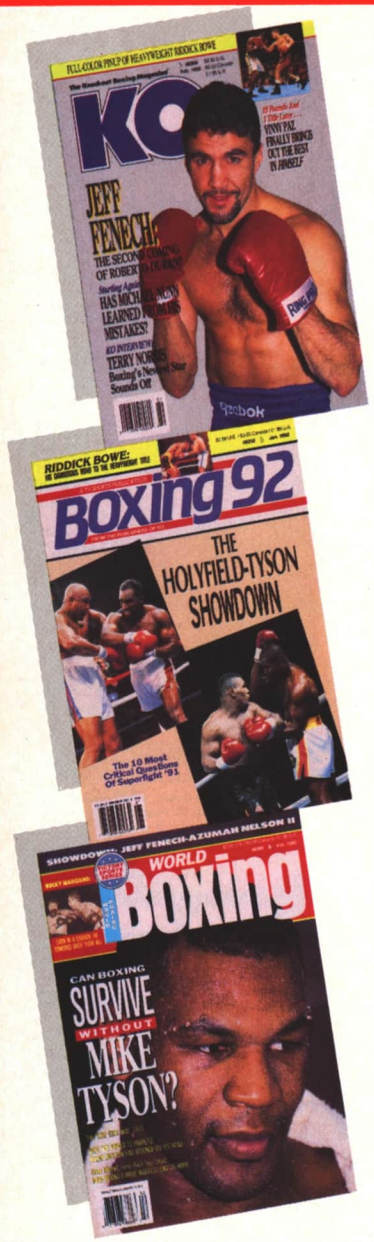

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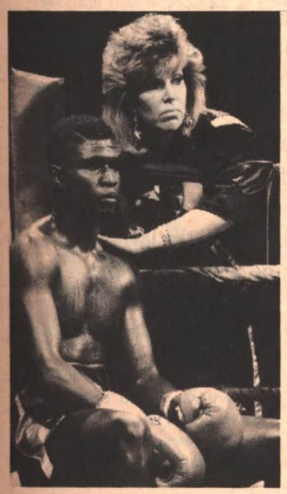

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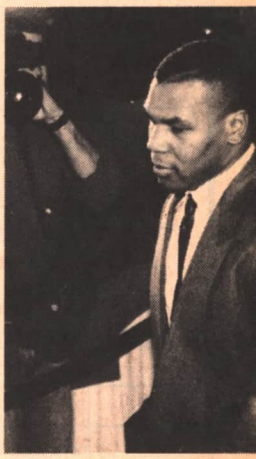

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Cover Photo By Al Bello
Centerfold By Will Hart

Ringside

As soon as the verdict was announced, the phone started ringing. Until well past midnight, I answered the same question over and over again: What did Mike Tyson's conviction mean to boxing?

Boxing is resilient; it will survive. So, too, will Tyson. It's society I'm worried about.

In the days after the most famous boxer in the world was declared a rapist, newspaper reporters swept the neighborhoods of New York City for reactions. On the streets, the support for Tyson was considerable. To many, he remained a hero and role model.

First I felt anger. Then pity.

As the editor of *The Ring*, I'm presumably equipped to analyze Tyson in boxing terms. Claiming no degrees in behavioral psychology, perhaps I'm not equipped, then, to analyze him as a social phenomenon. Still, this rapist-as-role model sentiment disturbs me. Am I to dismiss Tyson's grass roots support as nothing more than the magnetism of celebrity? Or is "Iron Mike's" legion telling us that goodness and decency and simple respect no longer count for anything? If so, they may be as doomed as Tyson was.

Sure, Tyson made millions by swinging his fists. But his was not a kid-makes-it-out-of-the-ghetto story. Talent allowed him only to delay his fate, not escape it. After the jurors damned him in Indianapolis, that should have been painfully obvious to everyone.

As a fighting machine, Tyson once approached perfection. But it's never been particularly difficult for me to separate the fighter from the man. Why is it so hard for those who continue to worship him?

Tyson once matter-of-factly said, "If I wasn't in boxing, I'd be breaking the law." It's now apparent that he knew himself well. In the ring, he became a world champion. In life, he never made it out of four-round prelims.

Here's hoping his supporters stop selecting their heroes with blindfolds on.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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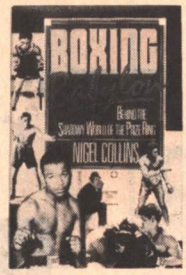

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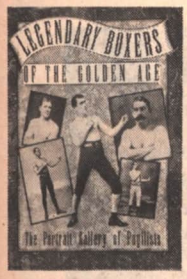

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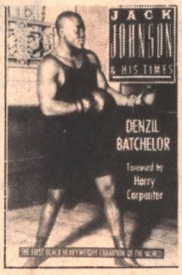

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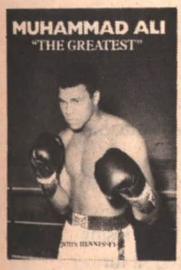

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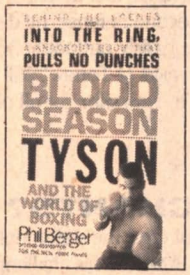

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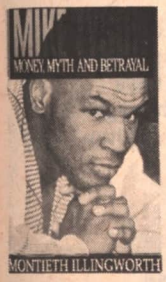

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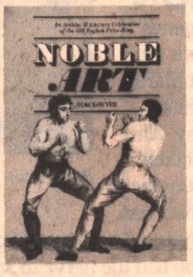

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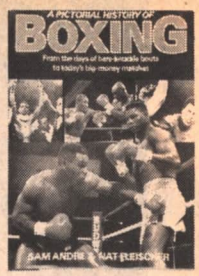

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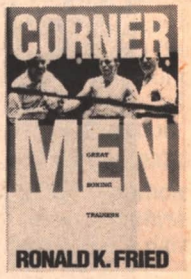

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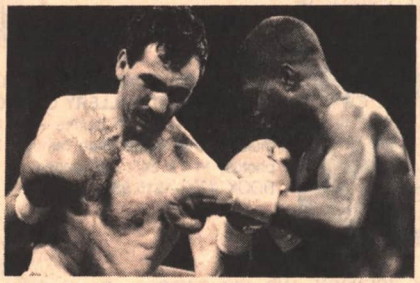


Tiberi and Toney duke it out

TONEY-TIBERI

I am disgusted! I have just witnessed judges Bill Lerch and Frank Garza blatantly rob Dave Tiberi of a win over "the Marvin Hagler of the '90s," IBF middleweight champion James Toney. With your help, this nonsense must stop. In the meantime, I implore *The Ring* to rate Tiberi number-one at 160 pounds.

Toney is the *John Mugabi* of the '90s, a fighter built up by the media who is undeserving of the accolades given him. To continue to hype him would be a further injustice to a sport that has already received its share of low blows.

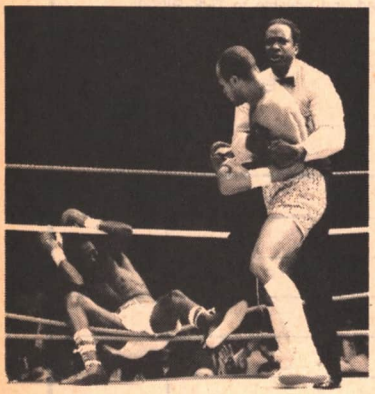
DANIEL BERTHOLD
Milford, CT

After watching James Toney's "win" over Dave Tiberi, I'm sure people will seriously reconsider calling him the Fighter of the Year. Tiberi will never be confused with Jake LaMotta, but he did enough to win on my card. Not bad for an unranked fighter with no punch.

Take a closer look at Toney's record. Before winning the IBF title, he was held to a draw by the legendary Sanderline Williams. Before scoring a lucky left hook knockout, he was thoroughly outboxed by Michael Nunn. In his first defense, creative judging saved him from losing the title to Reggie Johnson. In his second defense, he didn't even bother to make weight for Francesco Dell'Aquila. And then he barely outfought 35-year-old Mike McCallum.

The cover of your April '92 issue asks of Toney "Will He Be The Middleweight Of The '90s?" I think Toney has answered the question for all of us.

HECTOR CUADRADO
New York, NY



Bumphus crashes vs. Honeyghan

THE MEAT MERCHANTS?

I would like to express my disgust over the statements made by George Benton concerning Johnny Bumphus' physical condition before his challenge of welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan in February 1987 *(The Ring,* March 1992). If Benton and co-trainer Lou Duva knew that Bumphus . . . "couldn't even walk," how could they justify endangering their fighter's health? What's next, a boxer who is HIV positive fighting with a bad cut because his handlers want him to have one last payday?

JIM HASH
Lynchburg, VA

Bob Pastor poses with Joe Louis

A BIASED OPINION

I enjoyed the "Battle Of The Legends" matchup of heavyweight champions Muhammad Ali and Joe Louis in your March '92 issue. One of your panelists, Hank Kaplan, seemed right on the money. Another, Floyd Patterson, gave predictable opinions. Eddie Futch, however, convinced me that he's a better trainer than historian.

Having worked the corner opposite Ali for several fights, it wasn't surprising that Futch tabbed Louis the better man. But he had the nerve to say Bob Pastor was a better boxer than Ali? C'mon, Eddie gave you a biased opinion, and you know it.

If Billy Conn almost knocked the crown off the head of the great Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali certainly would have. Ali by unanimous decision.

JIM CIMAROLLI
Sulphur Springs, TX ■

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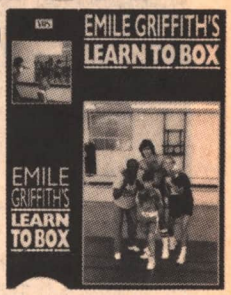

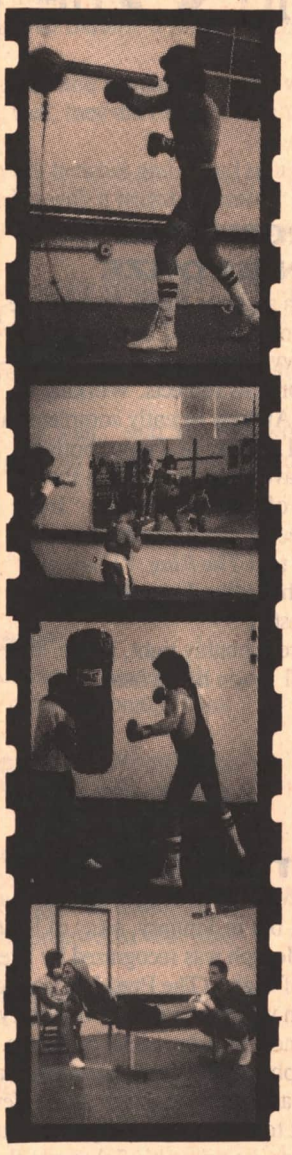

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Round One

IRON MIKE IN BRONZE

British sculptor Neale Andrew specializes in sports, and he now lists former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson among his subjects. Working in bronze, Andrew recently completed a bust and a figure of Tyson, both of which have been displayed in the art galleries of London. Though "Iron Mike" never sat for Andrew, the sculptor told *The Ring,* "I have the feeling that Mike Tyson himself may be interested."

You're probably right, Neale. Just don't tell Tyson he's a bust.

Tyson lives in bronze

LIGHTING THE WAY

The Mike Tyson rape trial may have cast a dark cloud over the sport of boxing, but in January, a ray of light came shining out of Louisiana when James Joseph was recognized by President Bush as America's 679th Daily Point of Light. (The President periodically recognizes an individual or institution who is engaged in voluntary efforts to help solve some of the nation's most pressing social problems.)

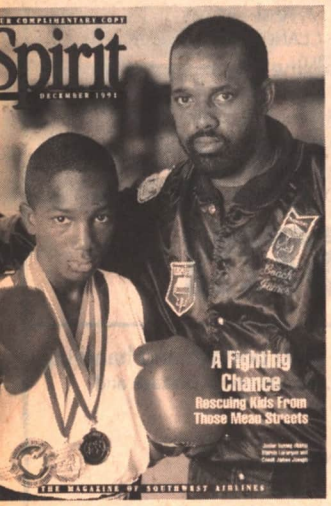
Joseph, 40, is a part-time welder, a volunteer at a local drug treatment center, and the head coach at the New Orleans Boxing Club. His desire is not just to develop good fighters, but well-rounded citizens, too. After workouts, he drives his fighters to the library, and checks up on them by making unannounced visits to schoolteachers.

"I use the sport of boxing to lure them in," Joseph told *The Ring*. "What I do is promote moral and educational awareness. To stay in the program they have to maintain good grades, go to church, and volunteer at least 10 hours of service to the community each month."

There are 25 fighters in Joseph's program, ranging from eight to 20 years of age. Three have won regional Junior Olympics titles, and 15-year-old Marvin LaFargue is an international Junior Olympics champion. All of Joseph's fighters are amateurs, and he claims to have no interest in pointing them toward the pros. Instead, he steers them toward college.

"Some of them have their focus on the Olympics," said Joseph. "But most of them want to use boxing as a basis for a good education and an opportunity to travel. I'm only interested in them staying alive until they are old enough to decide what they want to do. The activities keep them busy, so they don't get out on the streets and sell or use drugs."

—Robert Cassidy



r kids, Joseph makes a difference

FIGHTING THE STREETS

In January, Frankie Mitchell and Bryant Paden fought a stunning toe-to-toe battle for Mitchell's NABF lightweight crown, with the champion gutting out a unanimous decision. The fight came less than a week after Mitchell confessed to using cocaine and living on the streets of Philadelphia.

Mitchell admitted he had used cocaine for the last five years, a period during which he became one of the top junior lightweights and lightweights in the world. (His only career loss came in a title challenge of then-WBA junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell in 1990.) He consistently beat athletic commission drug tests by suspending his use before fights, but his problem forced him to split with his wife and turn to the streets.

Mitchell told his tragedy to the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Robert Seltzer, who broke the story the day of the Paden fight.

"I think it was a matter of just being lonely and wanting to mix in with other people," Mitchell told Seltzer. "And those other people, well, they did drugs. I didn't do it at first, but the drugs were always there."

Mitchell revealed that he had slept on park benches and found refuge in abandoned buildings. As the Paden fight approached, he moved in with a friend. Promoter Russell Peltz, who gave Mitchell weekly expense money, said that the lightweight had no possessions, "except for the clothes on his back."

"I can't tell you I'm gonna get off the drugs for good, and I can't tell you I'm not," Mitchell, 32, told Seltzer. "All I can tell you is that I'm not on them now, and I'm gonna try to keep it that way."

Both Peltz and Mitchell's handlers have recommended that the fighter enter a drug rehab center, but Mitchell is against the idea.

"I just don't think it will work for me, that's all," said Mitchell, who earned $7,500 for the Paden fight. "Every time I've quit, I've quit cold turkey. I just have to make it stick."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHAMP

Throughout his glorious boxing career, Muhammad Ali seemed consumed with himself. He preened in front of cameras, purring "I'm *so-ooo* pretty," and boldly proclaiming "I am the greatest."

But according to Thomas Hauser, who penned *Muhammad Ali: His Life And Times,* Ali owned very little of his own memorabilia. People took material from the champion, and Ali gave much of it away.

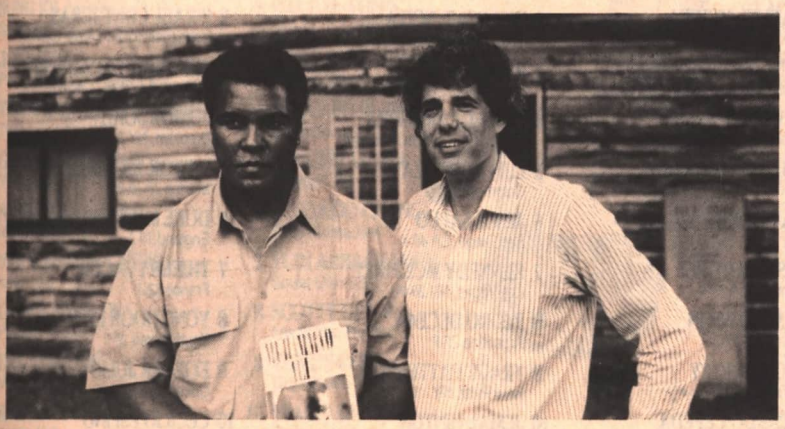
In an effort to present Ali with a special 50th birthday gift, Hauser collected 32 issues of *Sports Illustrated,* five issues of *Life,* and 20 issues of *The Ring,* all of which featured Ali as the cover subject. The author also scoured the country for fight films. Then he placed 60 pounds of memories in a carton covered with gold wrapping.

"When I presented it to Ali," Hauser recalled, "he ran his hands across the carton and was genuinely moved—like a kid."

And what films did Ali most enjoy?

"Believe it or not," Hauser said, "the ones with him fighting Tunney Hunsaker, Duke Sabedong, and George Logan."

—Joseph C. Tintle



Ali with his biographer, Thomas Hauser

THE PUNCHLINE

Before his New York City Golden Gloves bout in January, 156-pound novice Daniel Caruso repeatedly pounded his gloves into his face, a la Marvelous Marvin Hagler. One of the punches connected with his nose, and blood began to flow. Caruso was examined by the ringside doctor, who called off the bout. We were wondering: Does this qualify as the fastest kayo in boxing history? ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended February 19, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *26-0 (World Champ)*

2 RIDDICK BOWE
Brooklyn, NY *28-0*

3 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *26-3-1*

4 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *70-3*

5 LARRY HOLMES
Easton, PA *54-3*

6 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA *35-3*

7 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *42-1*

8 LENNOX LEWIS
England *19-0*

9 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *27-0*

10 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *43-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *29-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *52-5-1*

5 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *16-0*

6 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *21-1*

7 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *30-2-1*

8 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *16-1*

9 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *20-0*

10 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *23-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *30-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *54-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 VERNON PHILLIPS
New York, NY *14-5*

6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *32-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *30-1-1*

8 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *64-3-2*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *32-1*

10 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *26-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 MELDRICK TAYLOR
Cheltenham, PA *29-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 SIMON BROWN
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 MAURICE BLOCKER
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 GENARO LEON
Mexico *40-2-2*

6 GLENWOOD BROWN
Plainfield, NJ *34-3*

7 CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 SANTOS CARDONA
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 DAVID GONZALEZ
San Jose, CA *27-1-1*

10 YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico *37-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *40-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *27-0*

5 MARCOS VILLASANA
Mexico *54-8-2*

6 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy *44-1*

7 JOSE MARTINEZ
Hanford, CA *18-4-1*

8 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *27-2-1*

9 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *12-5-4*

10 RICARDO CEPEDA
Bronx, NY *24-1-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*

2 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 RAUL PEREZ
Mexico *49-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *44-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *32-3-2*

6 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *40-4*

7 KENNEDY MCKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *20-0-1*

8 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *27-3*

9 TRACY PATTERSON
New Paltz, NY *43-2*

10 JEMAL HINTON
District Heights, MD *21-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *35-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY *21-0*

5 VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico *28-10-2*

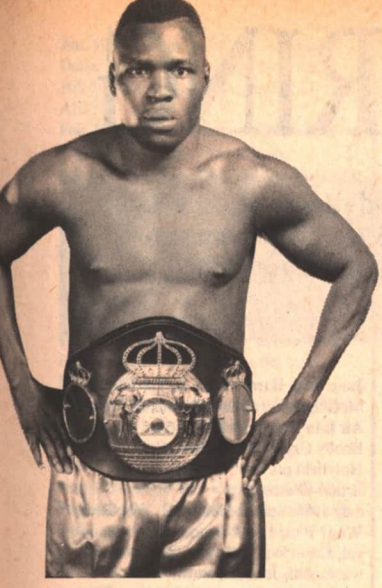
6 DUKE McKENZIE
England *30-2*

7 THIERRY JACOB
France *32-3*

8 YONG HOON LEE
South Korea *20-0*

9 ELIECER JULIO
Colombia *19-0*

10 CECILIO ESPINO
Los Angeles, CA *21-2*



Robert Daniels

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *33-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

6 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

7 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *31-3*

8 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

9 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *41-9-2*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *37-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Australia *30-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *30-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *32-0*

7 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

8 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Beckley, WV *23-2-1*

9 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

10 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

3 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *30-0*

4 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *28-7 (IBF Champ)*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *19-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *30-2*

7 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

8 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *44-6-1*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2-1*

Buddy McGirt

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *78-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *28-1*

3 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

5 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *48-7-2*

6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *24-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

8 **PAT BARRETT**
England *32-1-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *29-4-1*

10 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *29-2-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *39-4-4*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1*

4 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *37-4*

5 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *26-0*

6 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

7 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

8 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *26-0*

9 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *24-0*

10 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *27-1*

Joey Gamache

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-0-1*

2 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

4 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *24-0 (WBA Champ)*

5 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *25-3*

6 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *22-0*

7 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *27-1-1*

8 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *27-1*

9 **JACKIE GUNGULUZA**
South Africa *24-2*

10 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *7-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *19-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

4 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *36-2*

5 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

6 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *45-8-1*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *21-5-3*

8 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *19-0-1*

9 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *11-1*

10 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *24-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *26-3-1*

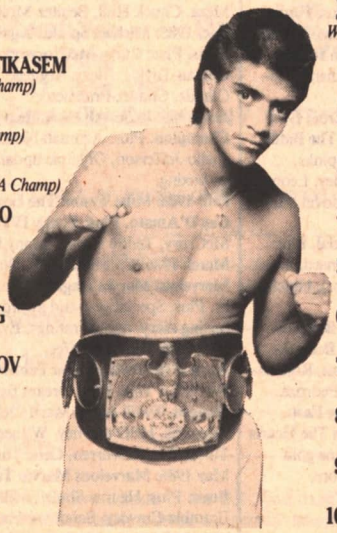
6 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *38-4*

7 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *10-0*

8 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *20-0*

9 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *25-0*

10 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *27-3-1*



Michael Carbajal

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *19-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *22-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *31-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-1*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-0*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *21-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **JEFF FENECH**
Junior Lightweight

6 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

7 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

8 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

9 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

10 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

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Jan. 1983: Dwight Braxton: "How I Will Beat Spinks." Plus: Pryor-Arguello—Fight of the Year, Frank Fletcher, Rocky Marciano, Curry-Starling I, Hagler-Obel II.

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Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

January 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

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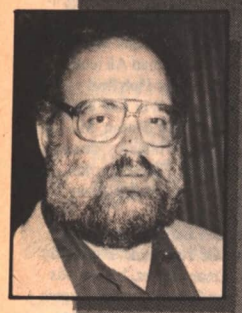


Katz Scan

By Michael Katz

SPREADING THE GUILT

Mike Tyson, guilty of rape. In a sense, maybe the entire sport of boxing was guilty of harboring a criminal.

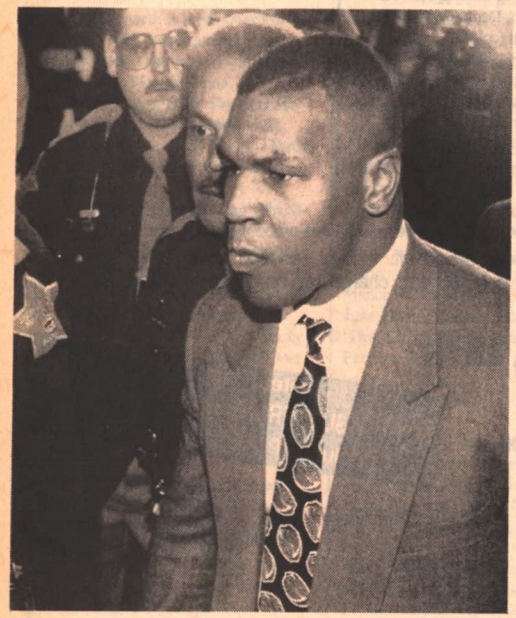
Oh, the knee-jerk reaction—mine included—was that this was not one of those so-called "black eyes" for boxing, the 14,739th, if my count is correct. Not even Don King could be blamed for what happened in Room 606 of the Canterbury Hotel in Indianapolis. Only Tyson, that lecherous human pig, was guilty, right?

The Bill Cayton forces came right out and blamed King, anyway. This wouldn't have happened, they argued, if Tyson had stayed put with all those loving worshippers at Cus D'Amato's shrine. Mike Tyson was just a poor, misguided soul, and D'Amato and Jimmy Jacobs, before they died, and then Cayton and Steve Lott and Kevin Rooney were all saving him. Don King did it.

In other words, Mike Tyson was just being used again.

In the greedy, ugly business of boxing, even a man's downfall is a chip. But there is too much evidence to indicate that Tyson's problems began long before he went to Indianapolis, and long before he met King.

Yes, King is guilty by omission. But so is everyone, from D'Amato to Cayton. So is the entire sport.



Mike Tyson has been convicted of rape. Is boxing guilty, too?

The thought was brought home the same day the papers carried the story of the verdict. There was a short item out of Knoxville, Tennessee: Big John Tate was charged with aggravated robbery. He had allegedly broken a man's jaw while stealing $14.

Tate's address was given as the Knoxville Area Rescue Mission. He was 37 years old, and, in another lifetime, reigned as the WBA heavyweight champion. Back then, Bob Arum was saying he was as good as Joe Louis, maybe better.

But when Tate's chin turned out to be unmarketable, he was discarded, given a one-way ticket to Palookaville. Too many of them wind up on skid row. What did Primo Carnera have in his pocket when he was sent back to Italy? Lots of them revert back to the crime and drugs they were trying to escape.

Tyson was never that far away. He was a juvenile delinquent, taken out of an upstate New York reform school by D'Amato, who coddled him, taught him how to box, how to punch with "bad intentions"

Tyson's intentions with young ladies weren't so good, either. He was expelled from Catskill High. D'Amato took him into his home and adopted him, but when Tyson misbehaved, he looked the other way. Teddy Atlas, who was then D'Amato's disciple in charge of training Tyson, shares a telling story.

The clan—Tyson and the other strays D'Amato was trying to save—was gathered at Camille Ewald's table for a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs. A plate had been put aside for Tyson's roommate at the time, who was closing up the gym. Tyson, who got deferential treatment, had finished two heaping portions when he reached for the plate reserved for his roommate. When Atlas protested, D'Amato interrupted: "Let him have it, let him wipe it

up, that's the next heavyweight champion of the world."

Another time, Atlas said, Tyson went through a non-bathing period. Ewald, now 86 and called his "adoptive mother" by the fighter, told him to take a shower because he smelled.

"Bleep you, you piece of bleep," Tyson replied. "Nobody tells me what to do."

No one did. D'Amato was going to have the last laugh on all those in boxing who had laughed at him. He could excuse Tyson. After all, Tyson was going to be the heavyweight champion.

D'Amato's worshippers can rationalize now. If the old man had tried to discipline the young hood, Tyson would have run back to the streets— permanently. D'Amato had to give him sufficient slack. For a while, the D'Amato fan club maintains, Tyson was seldom in trouble—oh, a shopping mall in Albany, a parking lot in Los Angeles, but what the heck, boys will be boys.

Never did it dawn on anyone that Tyson's emotional problems were deep-rooted. Winning the heavyweight championship was not going to cure them. Conversely, it would exacerbate them.

Steve Lott, D'Amato's biggest worshipper, said the original Team Tyson was "stripping away the layers of Brooklyn, the layers of hate and racism and contempt and distrust." Maybe, but the core of Tyson was rotted. Maybe, despite many gentle and caring moments, Tyson was just one of those "evil" persons, as George Foreman once said.

Tyson didn't start acting like a pig in Indianapolis. He was oinking in Catskill as a 15 year old. His disrespect for women was surely fed by his marriage to Robin Givens and Ruth Roper. Stronger men than Tyson would have cracked under their tender care. The "incidents" increased as Givens and Roper drove a wedge between Tyson and his old friends. When he left them, he jumped to King. Game, set, and match.

Tyson's last fight, a June 1991 victory over Razor Ruddock.

To King, Mike Tyson was a commodity, the richest in sports history. He tried to squeeze every last drop out of him before the Indianapolis justice system could. When Tyson injured himself training for a November 1991 date with heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, King insisted his fighter could be ready in December—no matter that as it turned out, Tyson was still injured then.

He surrounded the fighter with sycophants who were in place not to protect Tyson, but to protect King's property. King fed Tyson's growing ego. "You're the boss," he told the child. When Tyson lost the title, King said, "No, you didn't, you're still champion." Tyson bought it. He even told the poor girl in that hotel room, "Don't fight it, I'm the champion." After the jury's verdict, instead of going for help, Tyson—with King's support—continued his denials.

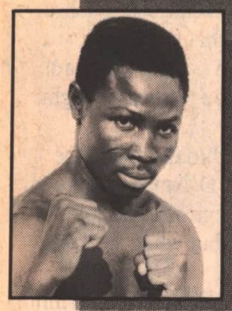
But for all of those denials, Tyson never did understand what "no" meant, at least when it was said by a woman. He must be held responsible for what happened, or for what the jury decided happened, in that hotel room. There were many, however, who had aided and abetted.

Despite all the indications that he had emotional problems, especially concerning women, the only time a psychiatrist was called in to examine him was after Givens labeled him a manic depressive. Cayton, thinking the prodigal son had returned, called in a doctor to say no. Tyson was no manic depressive; he could still box, still make millions of dollars for everyone. It is an ancient story. Many a well-intentioned person has been tripped up by the bottom line.

There are a lot of nice people in the game. There might even be something nice to be said about King, though the memory here is weak on that matter. King was a death sentence to Tyson's greatness. As the sociopath went from serial fondling of buttocks to rape, King was cackling, "Only in America."

Now it's "only in 49 states." Indiana frowns on rapists.

Tyson was guilty of rape. Boxing, as is too often the case, was guilty of looking the other way. ■



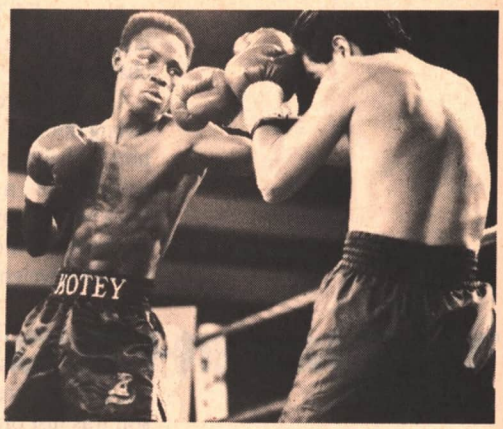
New Faces

By Lou Greenstein

Alfred Kotey

Flyweight

Photo By Hinda Schuman



Kotey kayos Antonio Gastelum

When Alfred "Cobra" Kotey and trainer Phillip Clottey work out with the hand pads, heads turn; at the Hillcrest Heights Gym in Silver Spring, Maryland, fighters and fans stop what they're doing and watch.

"We have a way of working with the pads that I developed with my father and brother," says Clottey, who has been Kotey's trainer for 16 of the promising flyweight's 23 years.

Their routine involves Clottey using the pads like gloves, and actually boxing with Kotey.

"He moves the pads fast," says Fred Burke, Kotey's manager. "He doesn't just hold them out. And when they go into one of their routines, it's really a picture."

Clottey and Burke agree that such unique training is only one of many factors contributing to Kotey's success to date. Among the other factors: Kotey's fierce, determined professionalism; his tremendous poise in the ring; his foot speed, balance, and concentration; and his ability to kayo an opponent with either hand.

A native of Accra, Ghana, and the son of a fisherman, Kotey arrived in the United States eight months ago. Although he had to leave behind his wife Evelyn and their two-year-old son Derrick, he is confident that when he wins a world title—his goal is to do so within a year—he will be able to afford to bring them here. He is looking forward to that day, and though he misses his family, he has no regrets about being here.

"We were facing a problem with opponents in Ghana," he explained. "I sat for a year waiting for a fight."

Kotey and Clottey knew the opportunities were in the United States. Burke had heard about Kotey through Azumah Nelson's brother, who happens to be among the manager's business associates. Burke was impressed with Kotey's record, as well as his character, and arranged to bring both the fighter and Clottey to Maryland.

"We wanted a base of operations and a good promoter who would have Alfred's best interests at heart," says Burke. "Russell Peltz offered us a two-year contract, and based on its structure, it was the best deal for us. It was the right kind of contract for Alfred, plus we knew that Russell's a good guy, so we went with it."

Kotey compiled an amateur record of 51-4, and represented Ghana at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. (During a preliminary-round match, he was disqualified due to a headbutt.) It was on the road to Seoul that he kayoed Scotty Olson (at the 1986 Holland Games). And now, as a professional, he is eager to again take on Olson. His camp, however, fears that Olson may not share Kotey's enthusiasm for a rematch.

When Burke waxes about Kotey, he alternates between admiration of his

(Continued on page 70)

PRO RECORD

	1988	
Nov. 26	Viper Tagoe, Accra, Ghana	KO 1
Dec. 12	Mohammed Alimbry, Accra	KO 5
	1989	
March 11	Bahos Armah, Accra	KO 1
April 22	Danjumah Musah, Accra	KO 5
June 10	Aristo Soweto, Accra	KO 8
Oct. 21	George Freeman, Accra	KO 2
	1990	
April 28	Shaibu Annan, Accra	KO 2
July 6	Danny Porter, Brentwood, England	W 12
	1991	
July 9	Kenny Butts, Philadelphia	KO 1
Sept. 10	Pop Robinson, Philadelphia	KO 7
Nov. 19	Nelson Vicioso, Atlantic City	KO 2
	1992	
Jan. 14	Antonio Gastelum, Philadelphia	KO 2

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	12	12	0	0	11

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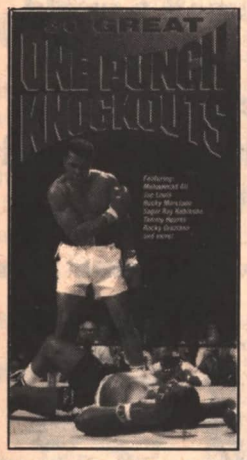
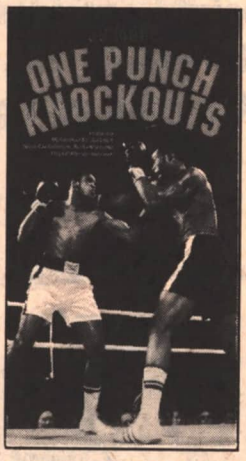
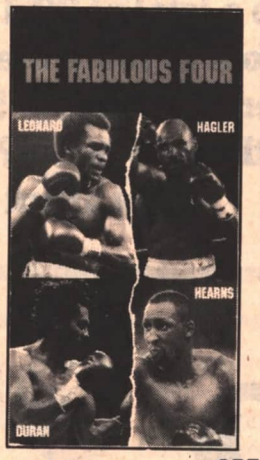
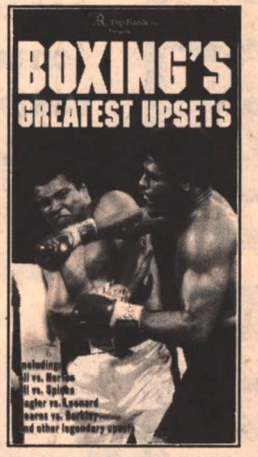
Color/127 min./**$24.95**

ALI-FRAZIER: THRILLA IN MANILLA
Ali called this slugfest with Joe Frazier in the Philippines, the closest he's ever come to death. Frazier forced the action, but Ali didn't give an inch in the third, and best, of their three bouts. Before the start of the 15th round, Frazier's trainer, Eddie Futch, refused to let his battered warrior fight on.
Color/60 min./**$24.95**









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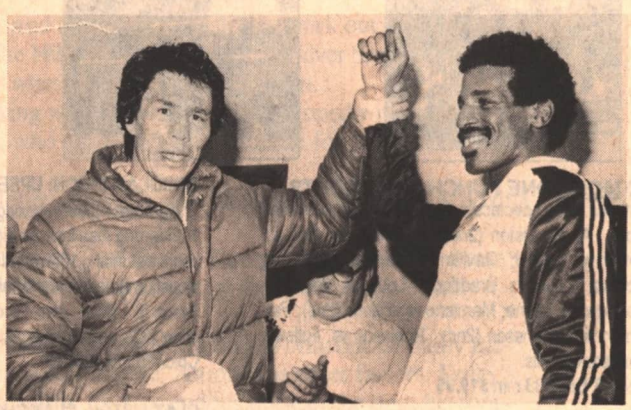
THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ Test

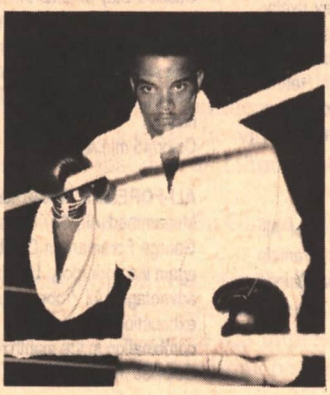
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1



The rugged contender on the left, raising the hand of Michael Spinks after being kayoed in 1980, may have been the best fighter of his generation not to have won a world title. But he sure had a bunch of tries.

2



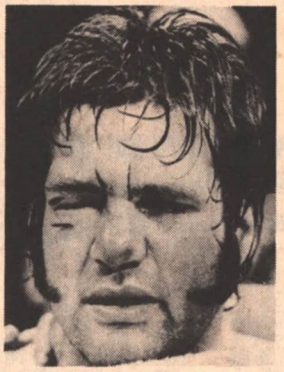
You figure: This perennial contender went the 12-round distance with Sonny Liston but got starched in one round by Ingemar Johansson.

3

In an April 1985 title fight, two of the decade's best lightweights squared off in Atlantic City. Jimmy Paul was the winner. Name his opponent.

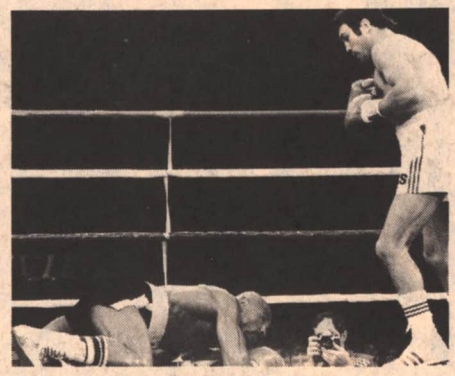
Your Boxing IQ

4 Don't let the face fool you. During his May 1972 title try, this heavyweight was only one punch away from dethroning Joe Frazier. Unfortunately, that punch belonged to George Foreman.

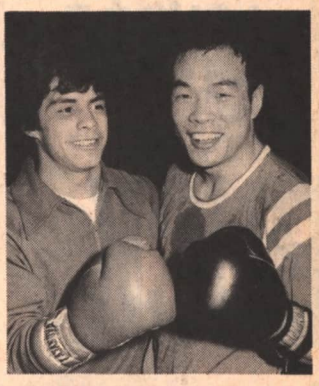


5 In the '60s, this two-division champion rolled over almost all of the middleweights and light heavyweights he faced.

6 It may have really been a slip, but Marvin Hagler suffered the first (and only) knockdown of his career before stopping this Argentine middleweight.

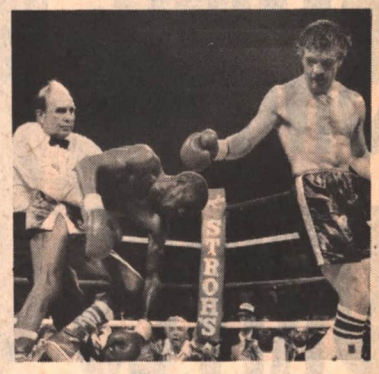


7 The bantamweight on the right is South Korea's Soo Hwan Hong, who was good enough to win world titles at 118 and 122 pounds. But in 1975, he was no match for this happy-hooking Mexican, who knocked him out in four rounds.

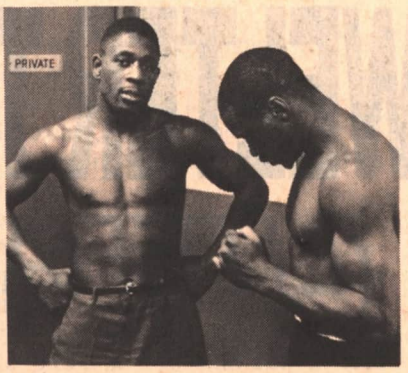


8 The 4'11", 107-pound Johnny Coulon, who reigned as bantamweight champion in 1910, was a tough pickup for this former heavyweight titlist.

9 In June 1985, junior welterweight title challenger Gene Hatcher allowed referee Johnny LoBianco to pick up the pieces of this defending world champion.



10 The middleweight on the right is Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. His opponent-to-be never won a world title, but became one of boxing's most successful trainers. (Oh, yeah, Carter won this 1963 fight on points.)



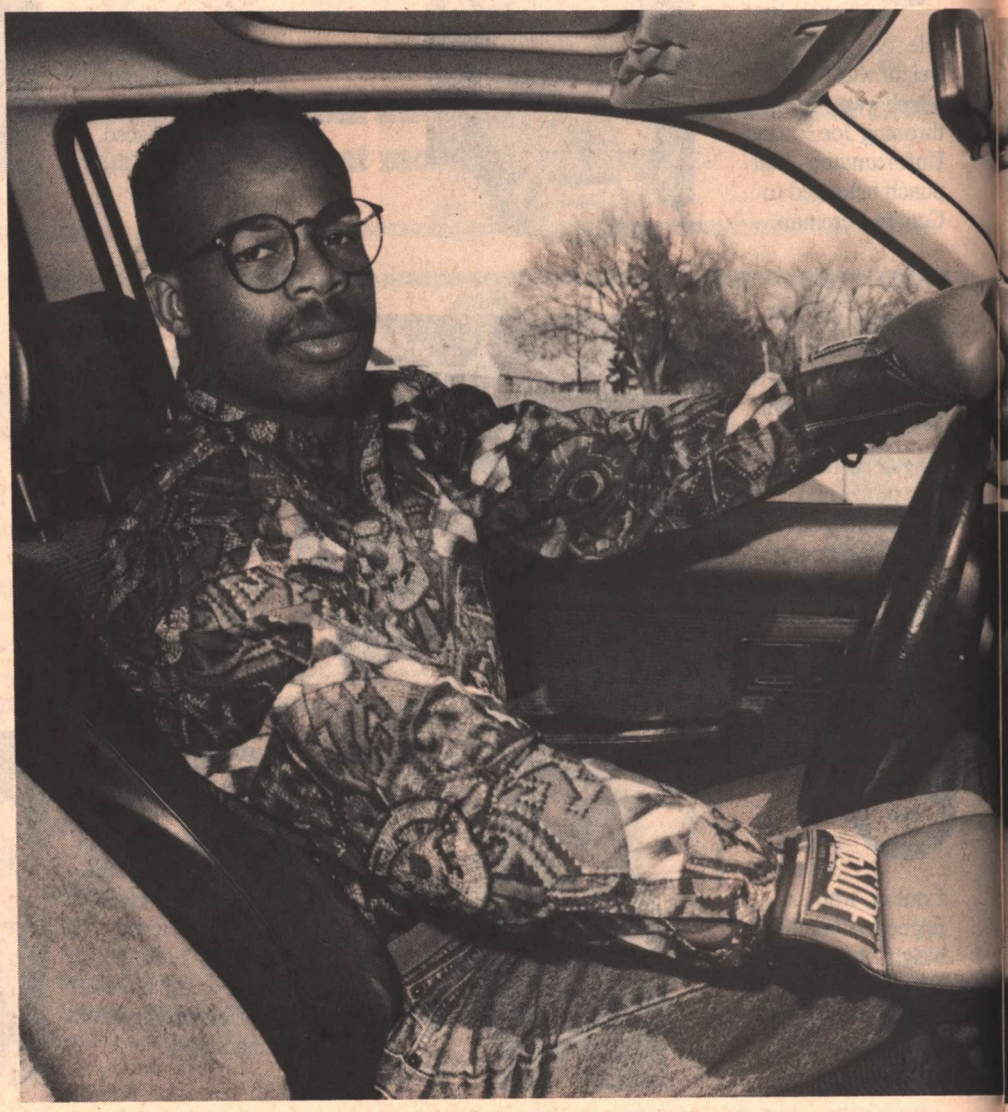
ANSWERS:

1) Yaqui Lopez;
2) Eddie Machen; 3) Harry Arroyo;
4) Ron Stander;
5) Dick Tiger;
6) Juan Roldan; 7) Alfonso Zamora;
8) Sonny Liston; 9) Johnny Bumphus;
10) George Benton

200,000 Miles, 100 Fights:

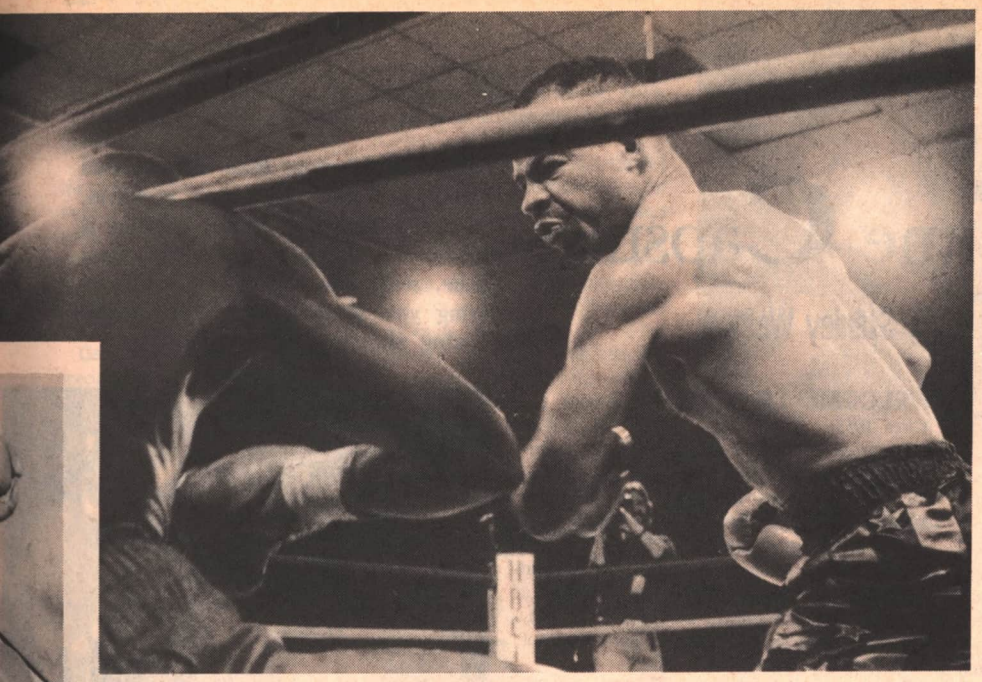
BUCK SMITH DRIVES TOWARD THE WELTER TITLE *(LITERALLY)*

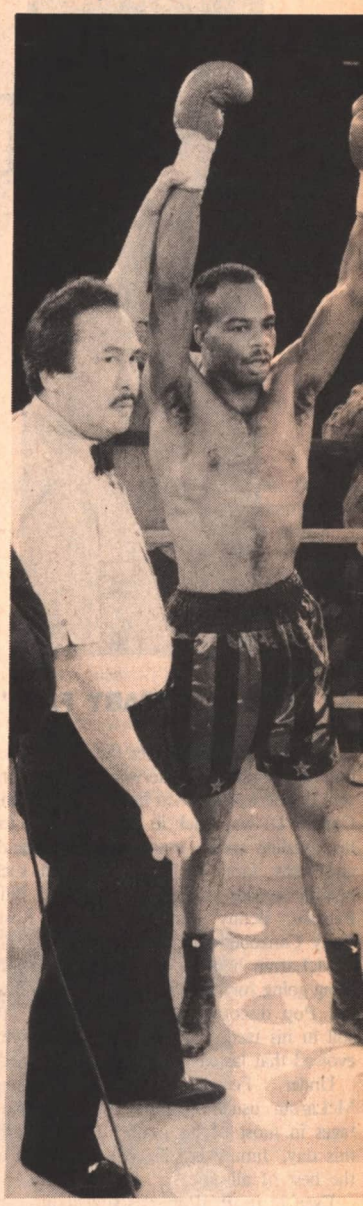
Photo By Doug Hoke



By Bill Haisten

Photos By Scott Romer





Left: If welterweight Buck Smith signs for a fight in Australia, he'll probably try and drive round trip in his trusty Honda Civic hatchback. Above: Smith has scored 66 consecutive victories, but the fight that finally brought him some attention was an ESPN-televised kayo of 1988 Olympic gold medalist Robert Wangila in Las Vegas. Right: After referee Carlos Padilla raised Smith's hand in triumph, it was time to celebrate. Below: Later that night, the fighter partied with (from left) manager Sean Gibbons, photographer Scott Romer, and cutman Don Herd.

Buck Smith was a terror in Oklahoma, the best boxer in the Bible Belt. But no one really noticed. He wasn't considered an important presence in professional boxing. His grinding quest for respect was without real reward. All those fights and all those miles—for what?

Then, last December, 26-year-old "Tombstone" Smith—he's a former maintenance worker at a cemetary—scored a second-round kayo of 1988 Olympic gold medalist Robert Wangila in a bout aired on ESPN.

Top Rank quickly signed Smith for another televised test. As we went to press, he was scheduled to face hard-punching Engels Pedroza in Las Vegas.

"Buck could be sitting in a good spot," said Top Rank promoter Bob Arum. "If he comes in as an opponent and keeps beating quality people, he'll set himself up for something big."

You can't help but first notice the record—96-2-1 (70). Midwest promoters boldly bill Smith as "America's Winningest Fighter." He's scored 66 consecutive wins, second among active fighters to Julio Cesar Chavez. But those who marvel at the sheer volume of 96 victories are outnumbered by those who question the caliber of the welterweight's competition.

(Continued on page 67)

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

AT 85, STILL "BABY FACE"

(January 1992)

Jimmy McLarnin strikes the same stance that won him the welterweight championship of the world, when he stiffened Young Corbett III way back in 1933. Famous for his dazzling speed, murderous right hand, and baby face, McLarnin whipped such boxing legends as Sammy Mandell, Billy Petrolle, Benny Leonard, Barney Ross, Tony Canzoneri, and Lou Ambers.

McLarnin had another vitally important thing going for him: his manager, Pop Foster. Pop discovered Jimmy when he was still in his teens. A father-son relationship evolved that lasted until the day Pop died.

Under Foster's shrewd direction, McLarnin usually enjoyed weight advantages in most of his major fights, and to this day, Jimmy is still considered one of the best of all-time.

Even in death, Pop was still taking care of his beloved Irishman, willing his entire wealth to Jimmy.

(Photograph by special *Ring* correspondent Abe Hochheiser.)

WELCOME TO HAVANA

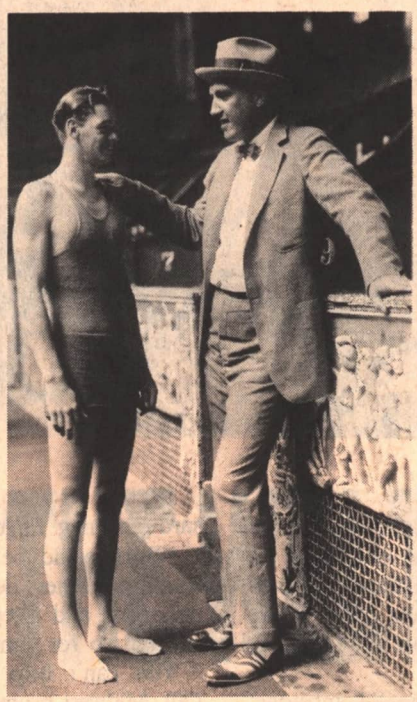
(Circa 1955)

The most idolized of all Cuban fighters, former world featherweight champion Kid Chocolate (left), welcomes Joe Louis and *The Ring* editor Nat Fleischer at the Havana airport.

Cuba's dictator, Fulgencio Batista, a fanatical boxing fan who often showed up at big fights in America, had invited Louis, Fleischer, and a group of other prominent boxing men to Havana for "a special celebration of the greatest of all sports."

Batista wanted Louis to appear in an exhibition against a young, Adonis-like, 210-pound Cuban prospect. But the usually obliging "Brown Bomber," who had retired for good after being stopped by Rocky Marciano four years before, respectfully told Dictator Batista, "I'd like to do it, but I won't be any good." Then, with a wide grin on his mellowed face, Joe quipped, "And I can't box 'cause I didn't bring my gloves."

Welcome to Havana.



FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

(September 10, 1923)

Former heavyweight champion Jess Willard (right) and the world's greatest swimmer, Johnny Weismuller, are pictured at the old Madison Square Garden, where they would appear in a giant Athletic Carnival for the benefit of the American Legion.

Weismuller, who went on to become the most famous of all movie Tarzans, was a perfectly proportioned 6'2" and 195 pounds. But he was dwarfed by the gigantic Willard.

Big Jess had retired after being stopped by Luis Firpo only two months before. Even when champion, he was always a very private person, avoiding crowds and special events. When asked to participate in the big Athletic Carnival, he tried to excuse himself.

"I have important business at the ranch," he said.

But when he realized that rejecting the American Legion would forever tarnish his image, he consented to appear.

Trained as a cowboy in his youth on the great Kansas plains, Willard's performance at the Carnival consisted of riding a quarter horse around the Garden and doing a few rope tricks.

"I had a lot of fun; I'm very glad I came," Jess said after the show.

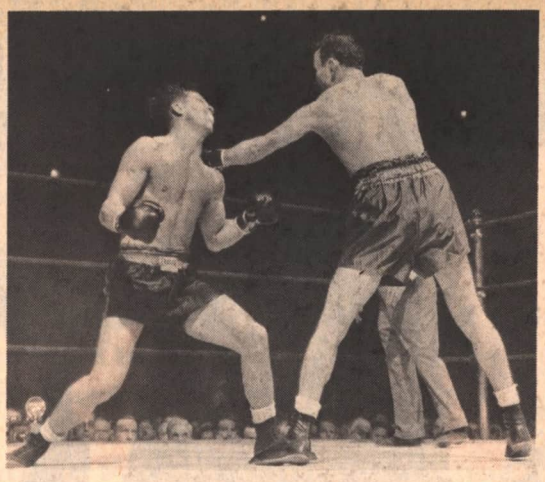
LEFT OUT

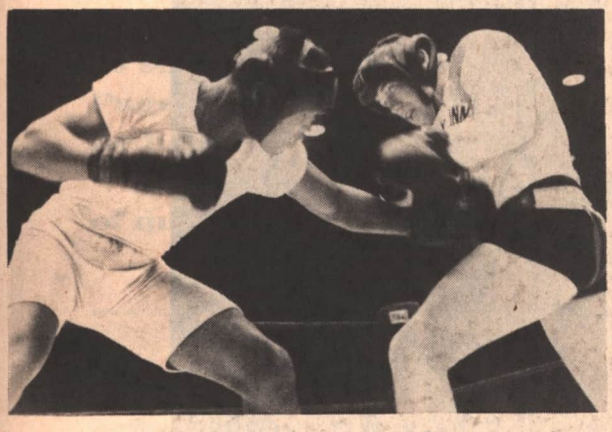
(November 28, 1941)

Boxing master Georgie Abrams rocks tough Tony Zale with a perfectly timed jab in the sixth round of the Madison Square Garden bout that determined Billy Soose's replacement on the middleweight throne. Soose had relinquished the crown earlier in the year to compete as a light heavyweight.

The Abrams-Zale fight was a classic boxer-slugger match that thrilled the capacity crowd from start to finish. Abrams, considered one of the most underrated middleweights of all-time, was well ahead on points going into the 11th round, when Zale nailed him with a crashing shot on his right eye. The eye immediately started to swell, and by round's end it was completely shut and the size of an egg. Georgie, half-blind, managed to last the 15 rounds. Although Zale was awarded the decision and the title, many in the crowd thought Abrams had won.

Georgie was rushed to the hospital after the fight, and one eye specialist thought he would lose the eye. Luckily, the doctor was wrong, and the courageous Abrams went on to hold his own against such stalwarts as Ray Robinson, Marcel Cerdan, Steve Belloise, and Fred Apostoli.





CASSIUS VS. INGO

(February 6, 1961)

Even at age 19, Cassius Clay was a master of self-promotion. In Miami for his fourth pro fight, Cassius learned that former champ Ingemar Johansson was also in town, training for his return bout with champion Floyd Patterson.

"Get me into the ring with him," Clay pleaded to his trainer, Angelo Dundee.

Before a crowd of 2,000, Clay sparred two rounds with Ingo, outpunching the Swede by at least three to one. Even before Dundee could remove his gloves, Clay had another idea: "I'll be his sparring partner . . . "

For an unknown reason, not even Angelo could swing that deal.

The next night, at the Miami Beach Auditorium, Clay remained unbeaten, kayoing Jim Robinson in one round. Three years later, in the same ring, he would stop Sonny Liston to become heavyweight champion of the world.

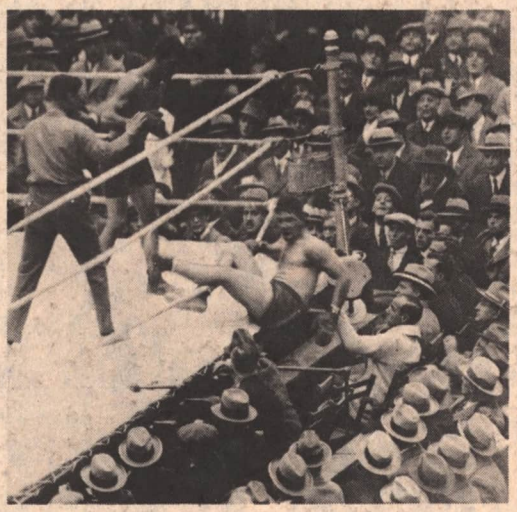
BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH

(August 30, 1937)

Before ring announcer Harry Balogh can raise Joe Louis' hand to proclaim him "winner and still heavyweight champion," gallant loser Tommy Farr reaches over to congratulate "The Brown Bomber."

This was Joe's first defense since winning the title two months before. Although Louis was comfortably ahead on points at the end, Farr had become the crowd favorite. He never took a backward step through 15 rounds, and, though his face looked like it had been run through a wood-chopper, he was never knocked off his feet.

Announcer Balogh holds the *Ring* magazine championship belt he is about the present to Louis. Incidentally, the belt was recently sold at a Los Angeles auction for $100,000, which was not much less than Joe's purse for defeating Farr.



STARTLING COINCIDENCE

(October 12, 1925)

A murderous barrage by light heavyweight champion Paul Berlenbach sends Panamanian strongman King Solomon through the ropes and into the outstretched arms of ringsiders in the eighth round of a non-title fight at New York's Polo Grounds.

A fighter being knocked out of the ring is not that unusual, but this particular incident is noteworthy because two years before, on September 14, 1923, in almost the same place, and in the very same ring, Luis Firpo knocked heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey into the laps of the working press.

Both King Solomon and Dempsey were shoved back into the ring just in time to beat the 10-count. As everybody knows, Dempsey rallied to kayo Firpo in the second round. Solomon, however, was promptly clubbed into submission by Berlenbach.

The Questions

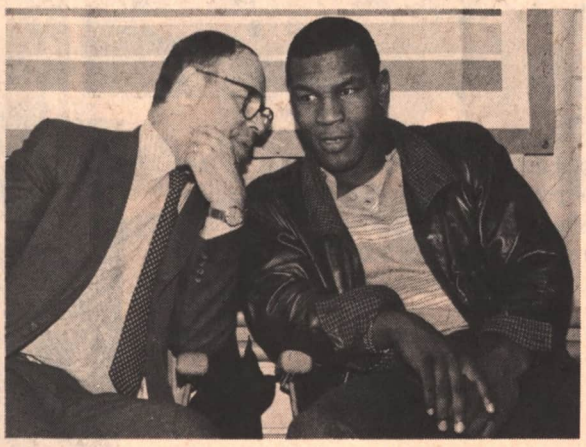
BOXING WITHOUT MIKE TYSON

By Steve Farhood

It was at 10:52 p.m. on Monday night, February 10, that Mike Tyson was pronounced a rapist. The boxing world shook, steadied itself, and spent the next few days soberly absorbing the news.

In an eerie coincidence, it was on February 10, 1990, that Tyson lost the undisputed heavyweight title to Buster Douglas. That defeat was totally unexpected; Douglas was a 42-1 underdog. But as soon as Tyson was charged with raping Miss Black America Pageant contestant Desiree Washington, observers sensed that he had left himself open for the ultimate counterpunch.

After the jury in Indianapolis gave its answer, a whole new set of questions emerged. Here are some of them.



Jimmy Jacobs and Tyson in 1986

Was Tyson's Demise Inevitable? (Subtitle: Would He Be Going To Jail If Cus D'Amato Or Jimmy Jacobs Were Still Alive?)

The guess here is yes. During Tyson's teen years, D'Amato, desperate in his belief that talent excused everything, allowed his ultimate creation lots of latitude. Whether a stricter approach would have forced Tyson to develop a focused sense of morality is open to conjecture. (According to trainer Teddy Atlas, who lived with Tyson, D'Amato feared that a heavy hand would have pushed Tyson back to the streets of Brooklyn. He very well could have been right.)

As for Jacobs, he and Tyson enjoyed a legitimately warm relationship. Unlike partner Bill Cayton, Jacobs seemed tuned into Tyson's complex personality. For better or worse, Jacobs would have at least temporarily shielded his fighter from the advances of Don King. But those who blame King for Tyson's collapse have read too many of Cayton's self-serving quotes. Ultimately, Tyson was responsible for his own behavior. King didn't ruin Tyson, and Jacobs probably couldn't have saved him.

That Must Be Answered

Will Tyson Fight If Out On Appeal?

No way. Even if Tyson wanted to fight. Even if Don King wanted to promote him. Even if the fans wanted to watch him. There's not a state athletic commission that would dare approve a contract for a fight involving a convicted rapist.

Take that, Donald Trump.

"Nobody has fought here while on appeal," pointed out Chuck Minker, the executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission.

Moreover, no one would sponsor such a fight; image-conscious corporations like Time-Warner and Anheuser-Busch would keep their checkbooks closed.

"If it is presented to us now," TVKO's Seth Abraham told the *New York Post*, "we would not do a Mike Tyson fight. He is a convicted felon. I would be uncomfortable doing that fight."

Showtime's Jay Larkin, however, wouldn't commit during an interview with the New York *Daily News*.

"I have no position on Tyson's future here," he said. "Everything you're talking about is pure speculation. If it becomes reality, then we will address it."

The jury meets the press

Will Tyson Fight While In Prison?

Again, a strong no. Boxing is prohibited in Indiana's state prisons. In fact, only one facility offers as much as a speedbag and heavybag in its recreation room. Tyson will have to settle for situps, pushups, shadowboxing, and unsanctioned bareknuckle bouts. There will be no James Scott-inspired fights behind bars.

Surrogate mother Camille Ewald offered support

The former champion still has plenty of fans

Will Tyson Fight After Completing His Sentence?

Quite possibly yes. As we went to press, Judge Patricia J. Gifford hadn't yet sentenced Tyson. It was reported, however, that her average sentence in sexual assault cases was seven years. Assuming Tyson was given such a term, and assuming his anticipated appeal took about one year (and failed), the former champion could be released after serving 3½ years. He'd then be 30 years old, and grandfathers George Foreman and Larry Holmes would be entering their respective primes.

Will Boxing's Image Suffer?

The silliest question of all, but one that warrants an extended answer. Boxing's image hasn't been tattered and torn, it's been shredded to pieces. Tyson may be the most famous boxer ever to be convicted of a felony, but long before he was charged with rape, the public associated boxers with violence and rage, and boxing with wise guys and organized crime.

Those naive enough to have been shocked by Tyson's destiny are looking for Boy Scouts in all the wrong places. Not all boxers, of course, exhibit antisocial behavior. (We have to look no further than heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield for a legitimate role model.) But before Tyson, there was Tony Ayala, and before him Sonny Liston (see sidebar), and before him Jake LaMotta. The list goes all the way back to John L. Sullivan, who was once fined $200 for tossing a streetcar conductor off a moving vehicle.

Boxing continues to survive because its appeal remains simple: great fights and great fighters. Even if some of those fighters forget to stop punching outside the ring.

Tyson leaves court after being arraigned

What Will Tyson's Life Be Like In Jail?

"He's a confused individual who doesn't need to go to jail—he might commit suicide," Natalie Fears, Tyson's former live-in lover, told *USA Today*.

Indiana officials have stated that while incarcerated, Tyson will enjoy no special treatment. But he will instantly enjoy special status. He'll be The Man, just like he was on the streets. He better hope there are no Mitch Greens in the adjoining cells.

Have Tyson's Legal Problems Just Begun?

From a financial standpoint, most definitely yes. For starters, rape victim Desiree Washington could file a multimillion-dollar civil lawsuit. Add the fact that ex-Miss Black America Rosie Jones has a $100-million suit pending, alleging that Tyson "assaulted, battered, and humiliated" her. Pasha Oliver, another Miss Black America contestant, has filed a sexual harassment suit. Robin Young has filed a civil suit based on allegations that Tyson touched her inappropriately. And Tyson and manager Bill Cayton continue to duel in a federal breach of contract suit.

Should he lose these various suits, does Tyson have the money to pay all the lawyers, much less all the women? It has been estimated that he's worth about $15-million. But while in prison, he'll make no more than one dollar a day.

During the trial, Tyson's presence drew crowds

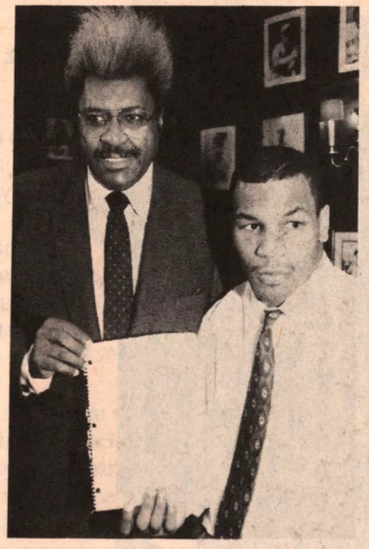
Will This Mark The Downfall Of Don King?

Fighters get slower with age. Managers and promoters, on the other hand, get smarter. When one meal ticket falls, they wait for a new one to emerge, and then they pounce. Tyson's conviction aside, King has been suffering. Azumah Nelson is almost finished. Simon Brown lost the welterweight title. And as we went to press, a judge was to determine whether King or rival Bob Arum had promotional rights to boxing's best fighter, Julio Cesar Chavez.

Tyson can't be replaced, but look for King to push Razor Ruddock; control of the heavyweight title has always been his number-one priority. DK still guides WBC middleweight champion Julian Jackson, and he'll co-promote, along with Madison Square Garden Boxing, the next five defenses of Brown's conqueror, Buddy McGirt.

King may never regain his status as the most powerful promoter in boxing. But don't expect him to slowly fade away, either. After all, deal-making is what keeps his hair high.

(Continued on page 63)



When Tyson was found guilty, King was a loser, too

He Fought The Law, And The Law Won

Liston in a Denver paddy wagon

Mike Tyson's legal problems are hardly unprecedented in heavyweight history. From John L. Sullivan to Big John Tate, the big boys have gotten themselves into big trouble. No heavyweight had a rap sheet longer than former world champion Sonny Liston. Consider:

- By the time Liston was 18, he had been convicted of six different muggings.
- In January 1950, Liston was convicted of armed robbery and grand larceny for holding up a St. Louis cafe. After his arrest, he confessed to two earlier holdups. He served 19 months in the Missouri State Penitentiary.
- In December 1956, Liston, 14-1 (7) and approaching the top 10, was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon after beating up a St. Louis policeman and then taking his gun and hiding it in his sister's house. His sentence was nine months service in a work house. The assault occurred in May, seven months before Liston's trial and conviction. In the interim, he was arrested four times, for speeding, for failing to answer a summons, and twice on suspicion of theft.
- In June 1961, Liston, the number-one contender, and a companion were arrested in Philadelphia for impersonating a police officer, conspiracy, resisting arrest, and turning off the headlights of his car to avoid identification. Three weeks later, a magistrate ruled that the pair had been guilty only of "an error in judgment."
- At various points in his career, it is believed that Liston's contract was at least partly owned by John Vitale, described by *The Saturday Evening Post* as "St. Louis' number-one hoodlum," and noted mobster Frank "Blinky" Palermo.
- In March 1964, Liston was arrested in Denver for reckless driving and carrying a concealed weapon. He was fined $300 and given a 30-day suspended jail sentence.
- In December 1964, Liston was arrested in Denver for drunk driving. He was acquitted after convincing the jury that he was dancing, not stumbling, at the time of his arrest.

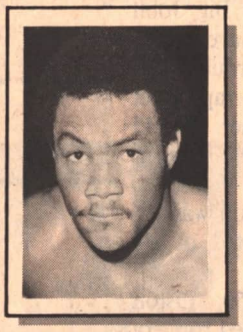
—Steve Farhood

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

George Foreman

Marshall, Texas
Career: 1969-1977; 1987-present
70-3 with 66 kayos

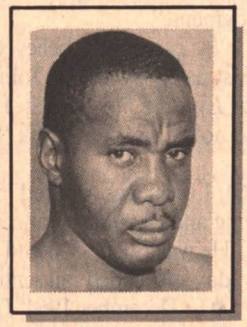


In Foreman's first career, the 6'4", 220-pound powerpuncher won a gold medal at the 1968 Olympic Games, captured the heavyweight title by knocking out the previously unbeaten Joe Frazier, successfully defended by crushing Ken Norton, and lost the crown in a monumental upset to Muhammad Ali. Foreman's reign was brief, lasting from January 22, 1973, to October 30, 1974. But until his loss to Ali, he was thought to be invincible.

After losing to Jimmy Young in 1977, Foreman left the ring for 10 years. He returned at age 38, and has registered 25 wins in 26 fights. His only loss came on April 19, 1991, a 12-round points loss to undisputed champion Evander Holyfield. Fighting at 250-plus pounds, Foreman, 43, remains a top contender. More popular than ever before, he'll likely receive another title try later this year.

Sonny Liston

Denver, Colorado
Career: 1953-1970
50-4 with 39 kayos



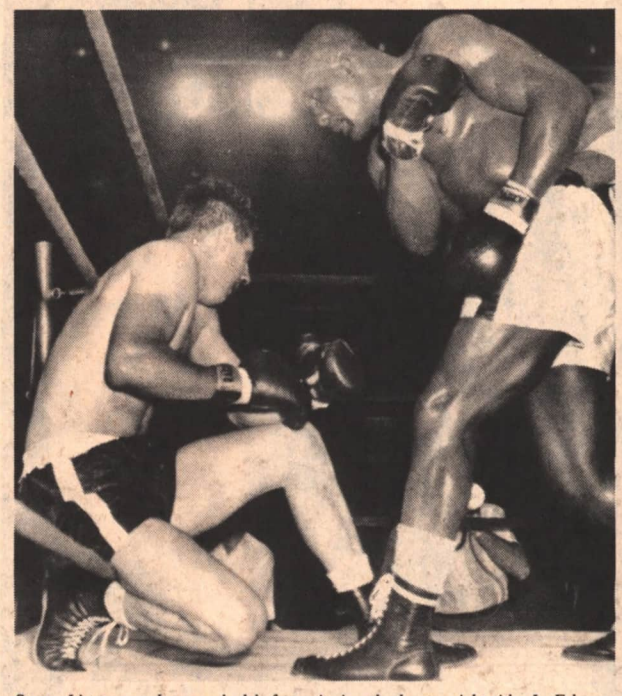
Liston fought in four heavyweight title bouts, with three ending in the first round. Among the most feared fighters in history, the thickly built assassin with the 84-inch reach featured a dominant jab, knockout power in either fist, and the most menacing stare in the game.

Liston won the title with a kayo of Floyd Patterson on September 26, 1962. In his only successful defense, he kayoed Patterson on July 22, 1963.

A 7-1 favorite to defeat Cassius Clay, Liston lost the crown by seventh-round TKO on February 25, 1964. Fifteen months later, Clay, who had changed his name to Muhammad Ali, repeated the win by controversial first-round knockout. (The kayo punch seemed relatively harmless.) Liston was never again a serious contender.

On December 30, 1970, Liston, 38, died in his Las Vegas home of an apparent drug overdose.

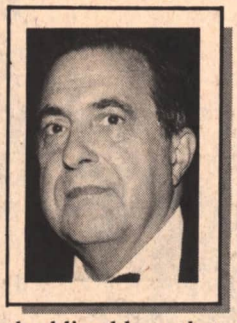
Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



Sonny Liston may have peaked before winning the heavyweight title. In February 1959, he scored a sixth-round kayo of Mike DeJohn in Miami Beach.

BILL GALLO

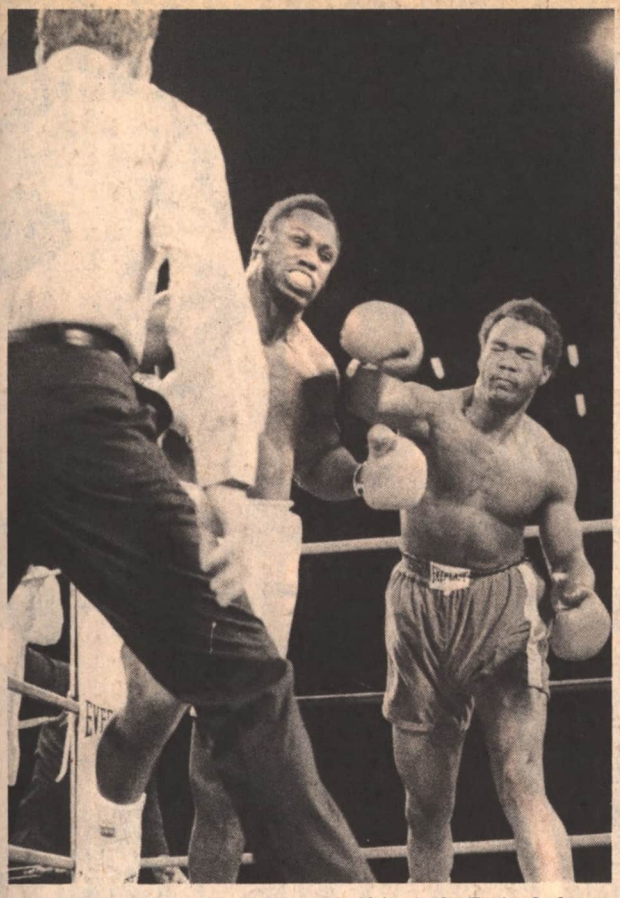
These were two very strong and determined fighters. Liston really was a very good fighter. Because of his negative personality, and the bizarre outcome of the Ali fights, he isn't given as much credit as he deserves. He had a great jab, and knockout power in both hands. His mean persona made him appear bigger than he actually was.



The old Foreman was always going forward. I don't recall him ever taking backward steps. He thought he could knock everybody out. But he didn't have one-punch knockout power. His punches were usually heavy, thudding blows that wore guys down. It usually took Foreman several successive punches to knock a guy out. And when he wasn't successful, he was usually the one who would run down, as in his fights with Ali and Jimmy Young.

Foreman would come out and go after Liston the way he did against Ali. But Liston was cagey. He would bide his time, slowing Foreman down with his jab. As the fight progressed, Liston would do more scoring. I see Liston coming on in the later rounds, taking control, and stopping Foreman sometime after the 10th round.

Bill Gallo is a veteran boxing writer and cartoonist for the New York Daily News.



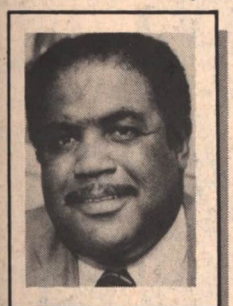
Even with his eyes closed, George Foreman couldn't miss Joe Frazier. In January 1973, Foreman kayoed "Smokin' Joe" in two rounds and won the world title.

In August 1959, Liston's violent march to the title continued in Chicago, when he took only three rounds to kayo veteran contender Nino Valdes.

ERNIE TERRELL

Oh boy, it would have been something to watch! We're talking about two very tough men, not just tough fighters. Liston was a very good boxer in his prime, which was the late-'50s and early-'60s. I sparred with him, but since I was much taller, and was a boxer, his jab, which was one of his best weapons, didn't affect me the way it did most other fighters. Physically, he could do more in the ring than Foreman.

It's a shame that Foreman couldn't combine the power and speed of his youth with the improved defense and maturity he shows today. Still, he was a very strong guy. Most of the men he knocked out he hurt first. Foreman had a great chin, but even greater determination. Getting up from those knockdowns and coming back to beat Ron Lyle proved what he was made of.

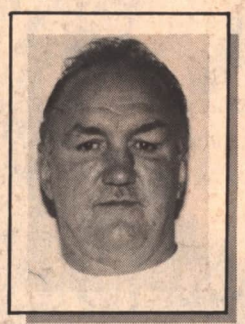


The fight would flow the same way the Foreman-Lyle bout did. Both men would connect with big punches. But Liston was a better all-around boxer, and he was certainly a better puncher than Lyle. By no means would it be an easy fight for Liston. But I see him coming on as Foreman weakens, and scoring a knockout around the 11th round.

Chicago-based promoter Ernie Terrell is a former WBA heavyweight champion.

CHUCK WEPNER

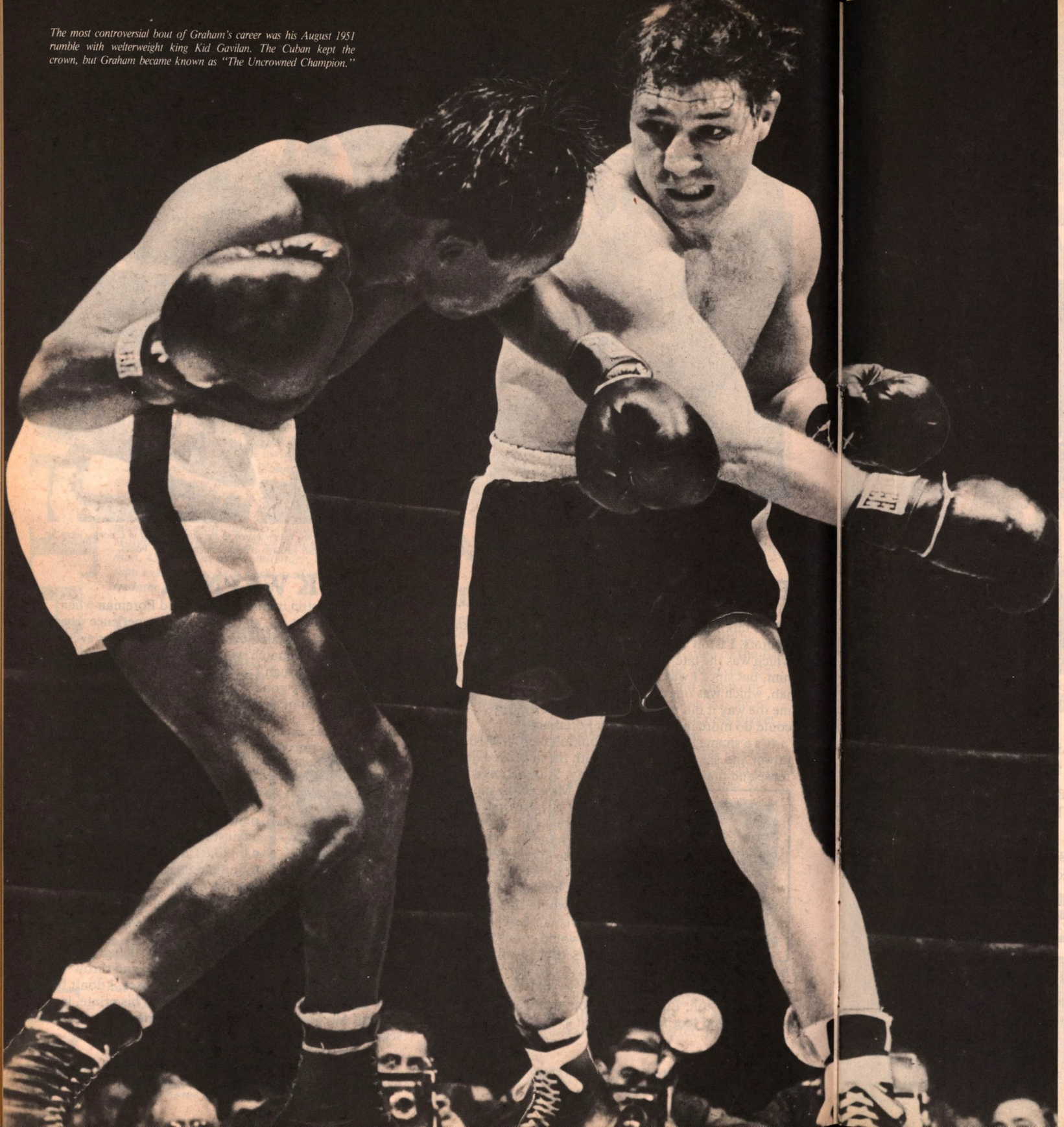
I fought Liston in his last fight, and Foreman when he was on his way up, so I speak from experience when I say that they were two of the hardest punchers ever. It would be hard to match two harder-hitting heavyweights. Even though Liston was at the end, I thought he was still a very good boxer. He took a good punch, and he had a lot of savvy. In his prime, he could do it all.



When he was younger, Foreman's most impressive quality was his awesome brute strength. He liked to push people around, but he could be wild with his punches, and that cost him against Muhammad Ali. He was a lot like Liston then. Both liked to intimidate their opponents, but you couldn't intimidate either one of them. They knew that they were tough. With George, though, it was an act; he's always been a good guy.

It would be an action-packed fight. Both had good, hard jabs, and didn't hesitate to open up and throw bombs. But Liston was a much better boxer. I don't believe anyone could have beaten Liston in his prime, including Ali. I see Liston stopping Foreman in six or seven rounds.

A heavyweight contender in the '70s, Chuck Wepner was stopped by both Liston and Foreman. ■



The most controversial bout of Graham's career was his August 1951 rumble with welterweight king Kid Gavilan. The Cuban kept the crown, but Graham became known as "The Uncrowned Champion."

BILLY GRAHAM

(1922-1992)

The Mob Cost Him The Title

By Robert Cassidy

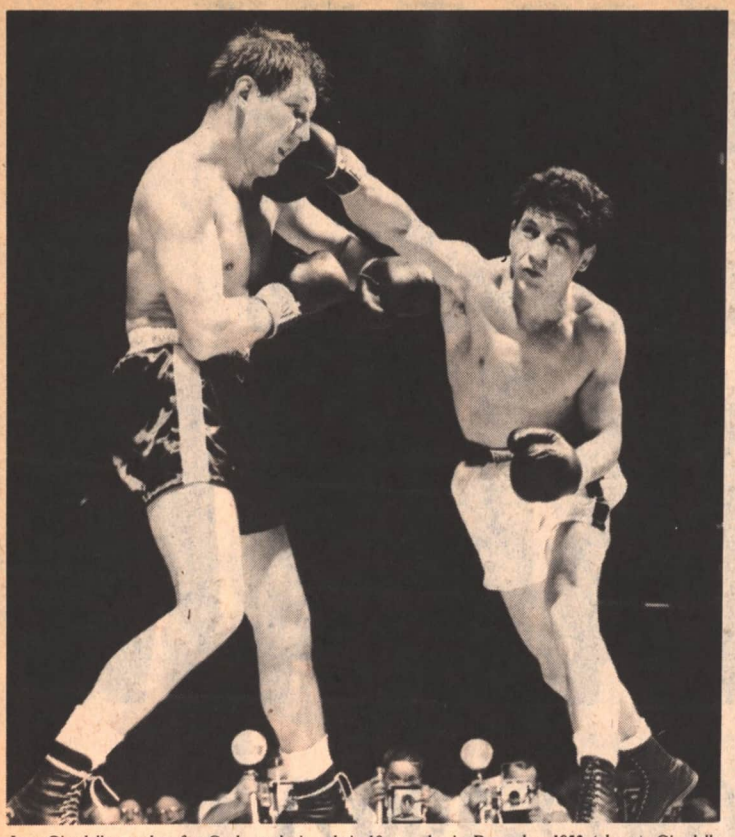
It is apparent that Billy Graham was the sweetheart of the sweet science. He may never have won a world title, but to his family, friends, and adoring fans, he will forever be remembered as a champion. On January 22, he succumbed to a long battle with cancer and died at the age of 70.

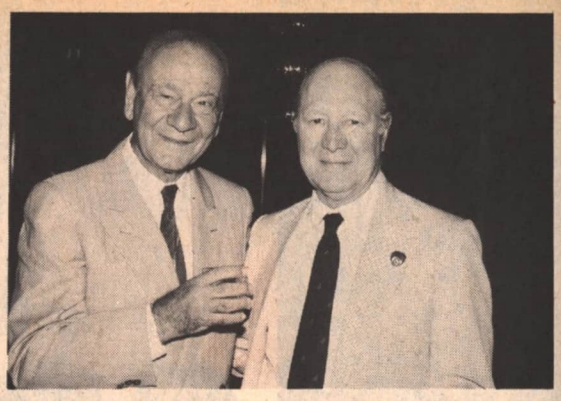
"He was cut different from most boxers," said Harry Markson, who headed Madison Square Garden Boxing's publicity department in the '50s. "He was mild-mannered and very well-liked as a person."

Graham was a favorite of the boxing media, as well as the fans, who packed Madison Square Garden each time he fought. In a sport replete with sordid characters, he managed to maintain a choir boy's image. It's been said that Graham never once used profanity in public.

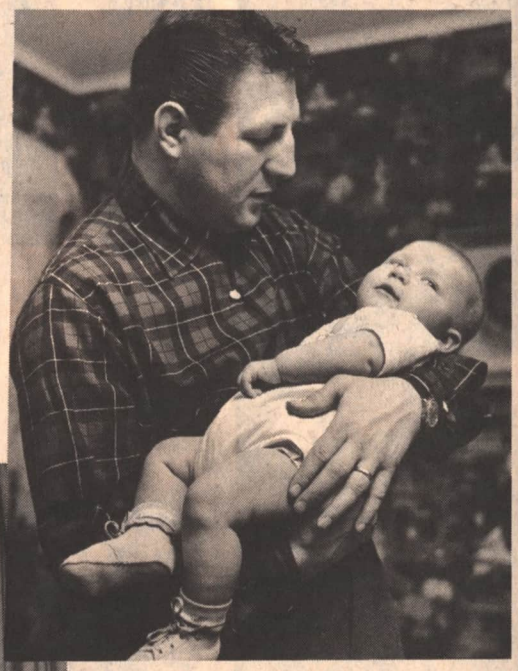
Joey Giardello, the former middleweight champion from Philadelphia, will always remember Graham as the man who "gave me my first big break." In 1952, Giardello, 22, decisioned Graham in the first of a three-fight series. The win launched his career.

Two months before Graham died, Giardello was honored at a dinner in Cherry Hill,





Above: Graham (right) with manager George Kanter in 1988. Below: In 1954, the boxer showed soft hands while carrying son Gordon.



Joey Giardello reaches for Graham during their 10-rounder in December 1952 (above). Giardello was initially awarded the decision, but the New York State Athletic Commission changed one of the cards and declared Graham the winner, leading both fighters to claim victory (below).

New Jersey. His lone request was to have Graham seated next to him on the dais. Graham, weakened and ill, made the three-hour trip from his Long Island home to share the evening with his friend. It was the last time Giardello saw him.

"I was happy to see him," said Giardello. "I'll always be grateful he came. When we fought, we weren't much of friends. But we were the greatest of friends afterward. I thought the world of Billy."

Giardello recalled a time when he, Graham, Ernie Durando, and Chico Vejar were reunited at a boxing function in New York City.

"All of a sudden, I looked around at everybody," recalled Giardello, "and said, 'Boy you guys made me look pretty good. I got six wins outta you guys.' Then they all started punching me."

In the ring, Graham was a slick stylist. He boxed from 1941 to 1955, and compiled a record of 102-15-9 (26). Nine of the 15 losses, however, were split decisions. His career was briefly interrupted in 1943, when he served in the Coast Guard, but he came back a year later and won 17 straight fights before losing to Tony Pellone. He retired at age 32 after losing back-to-back fights to middleweight contender

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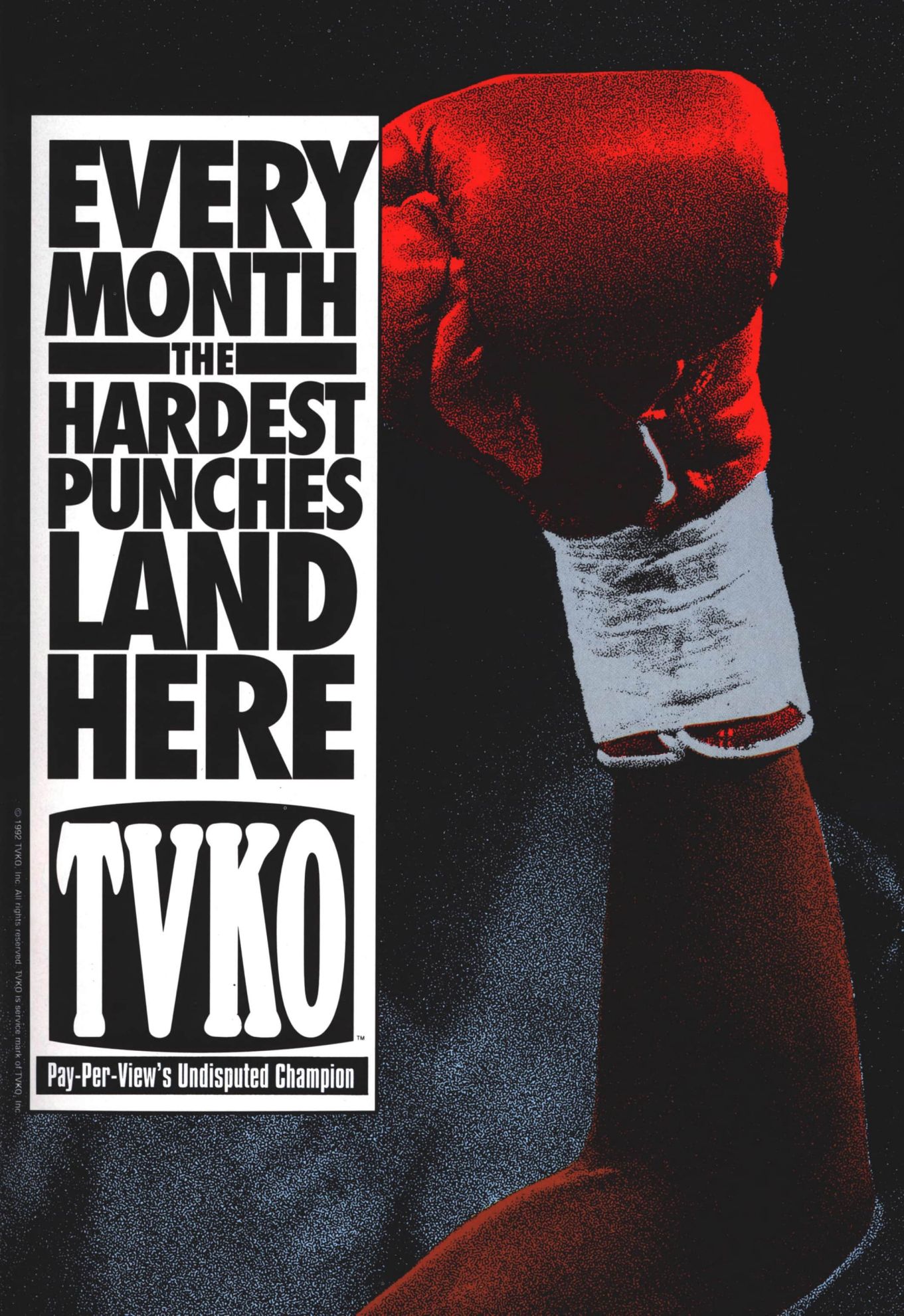

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"I'm Not Tommy Morrison!"

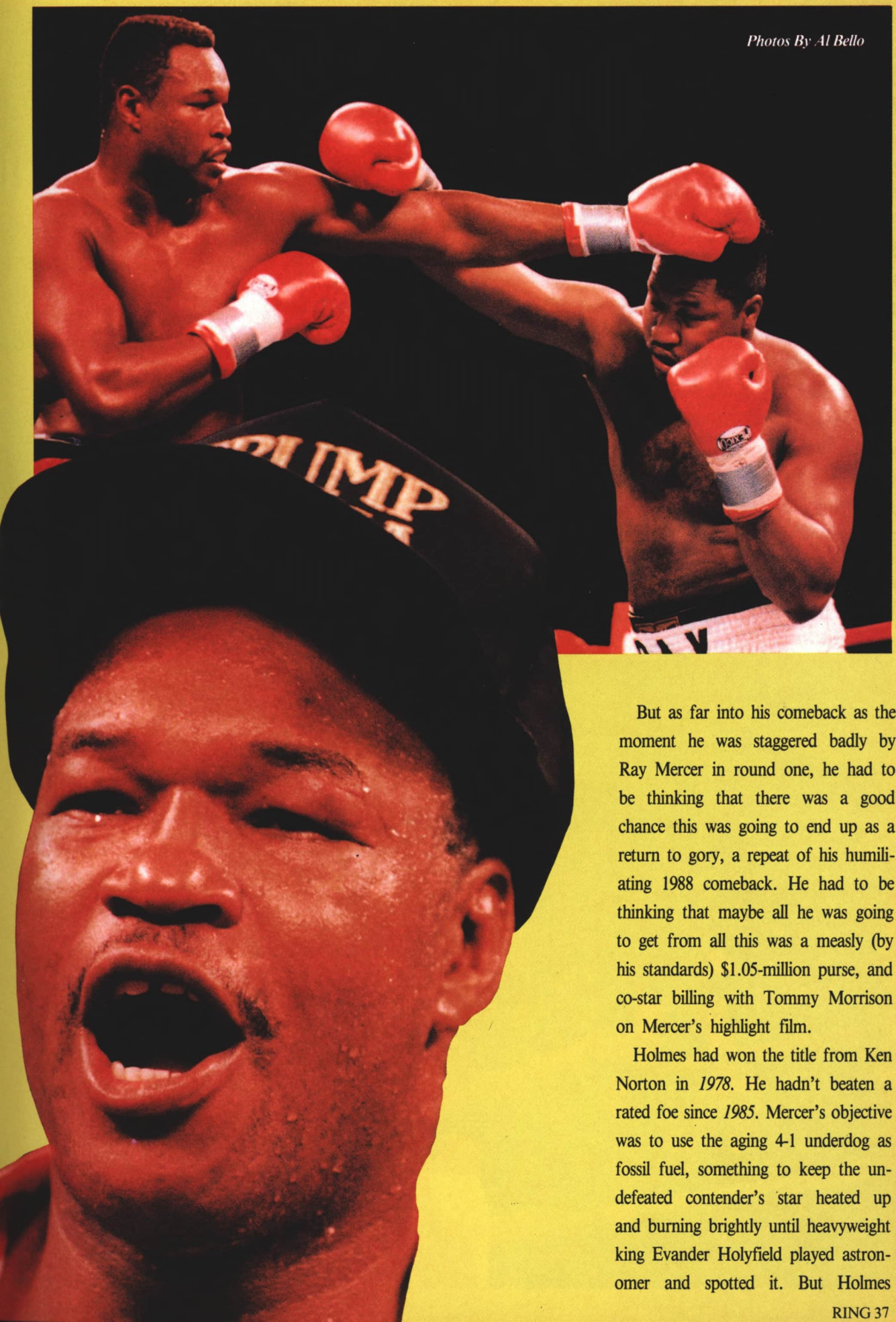
When Holmes wasn't shaking Mercer with his right (above), he was frustrating the 4-1 favorite with his long arms (opposite page). The former champion fought smartly for all 12 rounds and won by unanimous decision.

LARRY HOLMES DEFIES GRANDFATHER TIME!

By Jeff Ryan

When Larry Holmes went up into the attic, dug out the old rifle scope, and made plans to do a little Easton assassinating again, he never cared that we didn't understand his thinking. Did we care, after all, when *he* didn't understand *ours?* When he didn't understand why going from a job in a car wash to $30-million never made him a success story? Why 16 knockouts in 20 successful title defenses never made him a puncher? Why his comeback at age 42 would never be the Poly-gripping drama that old man Foreman's was, no matter how hard Holmes tried to put his best crow's foot forward?

No, it's not easy to understand what lured Holmes out of his glove-shaped pool in Easton, Pennsylvania, and back to swimming with the sharks. Money is the logical conclusion, and Holmes, who worships the green more than the groundskeepers at Augusta, gives that one credence. This is, let's not forget, a man who can order in a sandwich in front of guests and then tune out their growling stomachs while he sits there and eats.



Photos By Al Bello

But as far into his comeback as the moment he was staggered badly by Ray Mercer in round one, he had to be thinking that there was a good chance this was going to end up as a return to gory, a repeat of his humiliating 1988 comeback. He had to be thinking that maybe all he was going to get from all this was a measly (by his standards) $1.05-million purse, and co-star billing with Tommy Morrison on Mercer's highlight film.

Holmes had won the title from Ken Norton in *1978*. He hadn't beaten a rated foe since *1985*. Mercer's objective was to use the aging 4-1 underdog as fossil fuel, something to keep the undefeated contender's star heated up and burning brightly until heavyweight king Evander Holyfield played astronomer and spotted it. But Holmes

clouded Mercer's sky, capturing a unanimous decision that, along with Mike Tyson's conviction for rape, threw the heavyweight division into a state of turmoil. Intriguing turmoil, but turmoil nonetheless.

Ray Mercer is not Muhammad Ali, Ken Norton, or even Earnie Shavers. But after Holmes had used his grandfather claws to dig his way out of the grave, then dumped a bottle of Wite Out all over his obituary, he walked into a press conference in a side room of the Atlantic City Convention Center with a look of satisfaction on his face, a look few ever remembered seeing in his prime.

Smirking, he savored the moment he must have fantasized about each time he had squeezed more Sportscreme out of the tube or heard the joints in his knees creak when he pulled himself up off the living-room floor. Holmes stepped up to a podium, surveyed the few dozen reporters, and then made his point. Literally. He pointed from one side of the room to the other, making sure to exclude no one.

"You know what this means," he said. Then he sat down.

It was the quietest "I told you so" in boxing history. No need to mention names. We know who we are.

***

Maybe we understood Holmes standing across the ring from Ray Mercer in Atlantic City a little better when, a week later, we saw Magic Johnson standing across the court from Larry Bird in Inglewood. A man infected with a life-threatening virus, an all-star in retirement, and the object of every conceivable tribute in the past several months, Magic stared at his just-retired jersey hanging on the wall of the Great Western Forum and *still* thought about coming back.

Holmes had to deal with an athlete's unquenchable desire, and a lot more. He never heard any thank-yous. He had to retire his own trunks, on the wall of his office, and talk himself up because the press and the opponents never did. Some of the reason for that is fate's having dropped him smack on the middle of a stage Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and George Foreman had just exited. But some of it was Holmes' own fault.

He always thought the way to spell great was g-r-a-t-e. Tell people that Rocky Marciano couldn't carry your jockstrap, and pretty soon you can fit all your positive press clippings on a wall in your daughter's dollhouse.

In his last comeback, Holmes had climbed right off the Lay-Z-Boy and right into a title shot against the then-invincible Mike Tyson. No tuneups. No warming up the engine. Holmes just turned the key, stomped on the gas pedal, and pulled out into heavy traffic. His chasis was totaled in four rounds, but he made a sort of peace with some of the press by praising Tyson and offering no excuses.

He made no peace at all, however, with himself.

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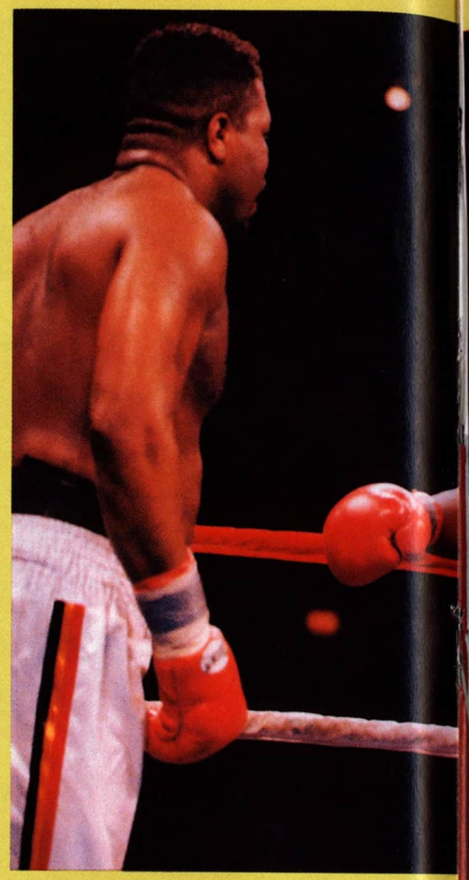
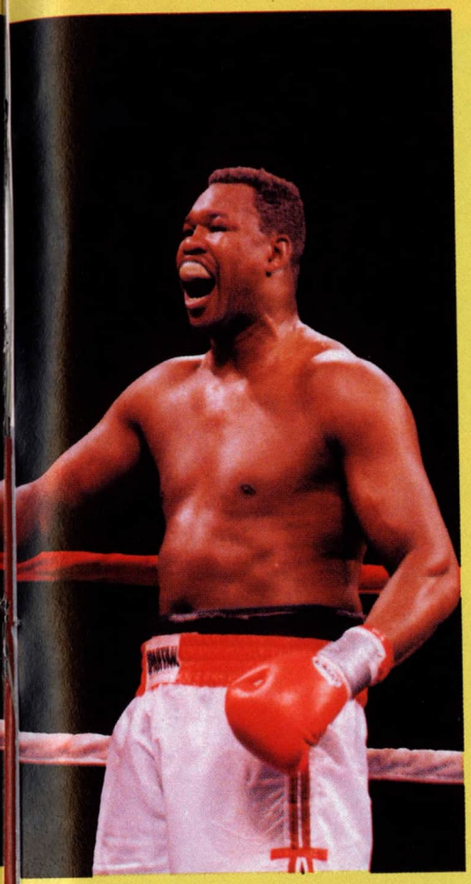
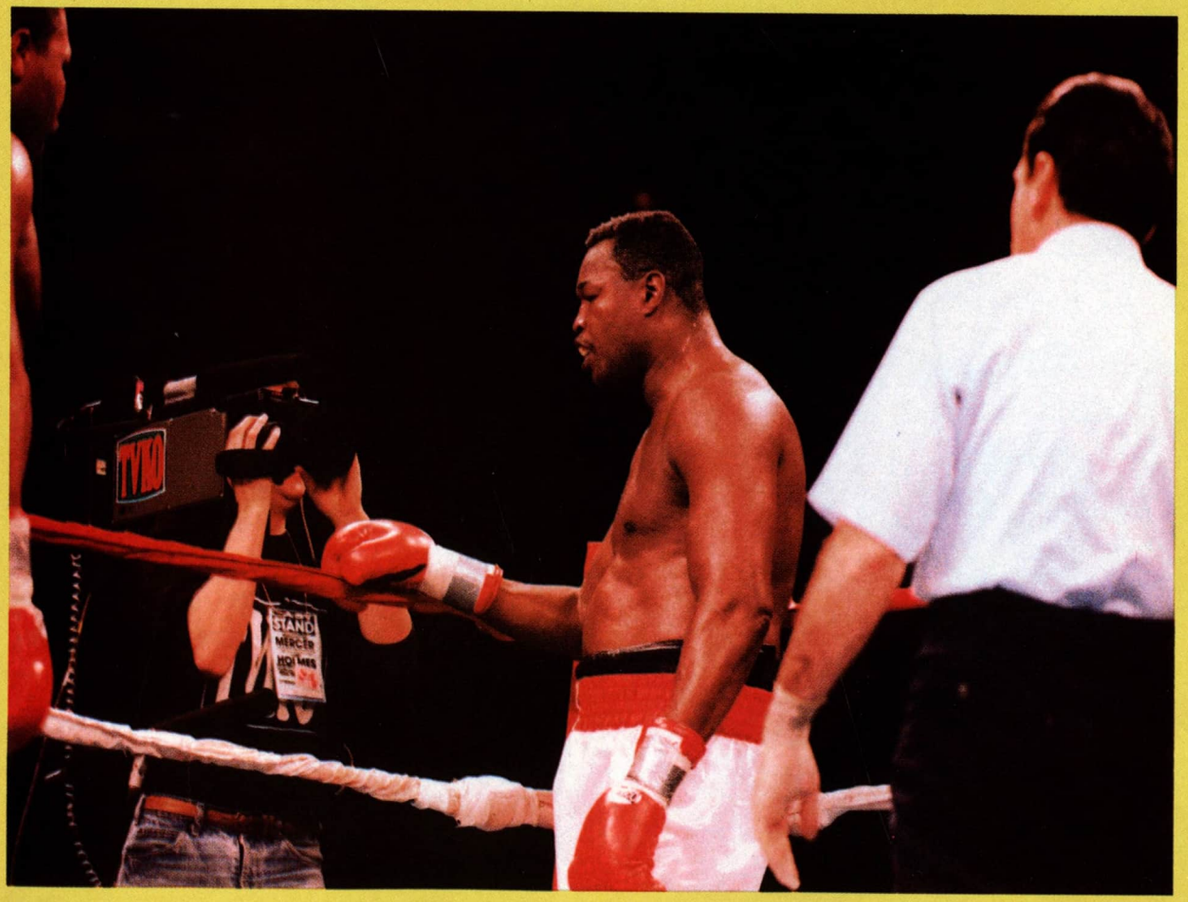


When Holmes wasn't playing with Mercer (right), he was playing to the TVKO audience (below). In the sixth round, he leaned away from Mercer, looked into the camera, and screamed, "I'm not Tommy Morrison!"

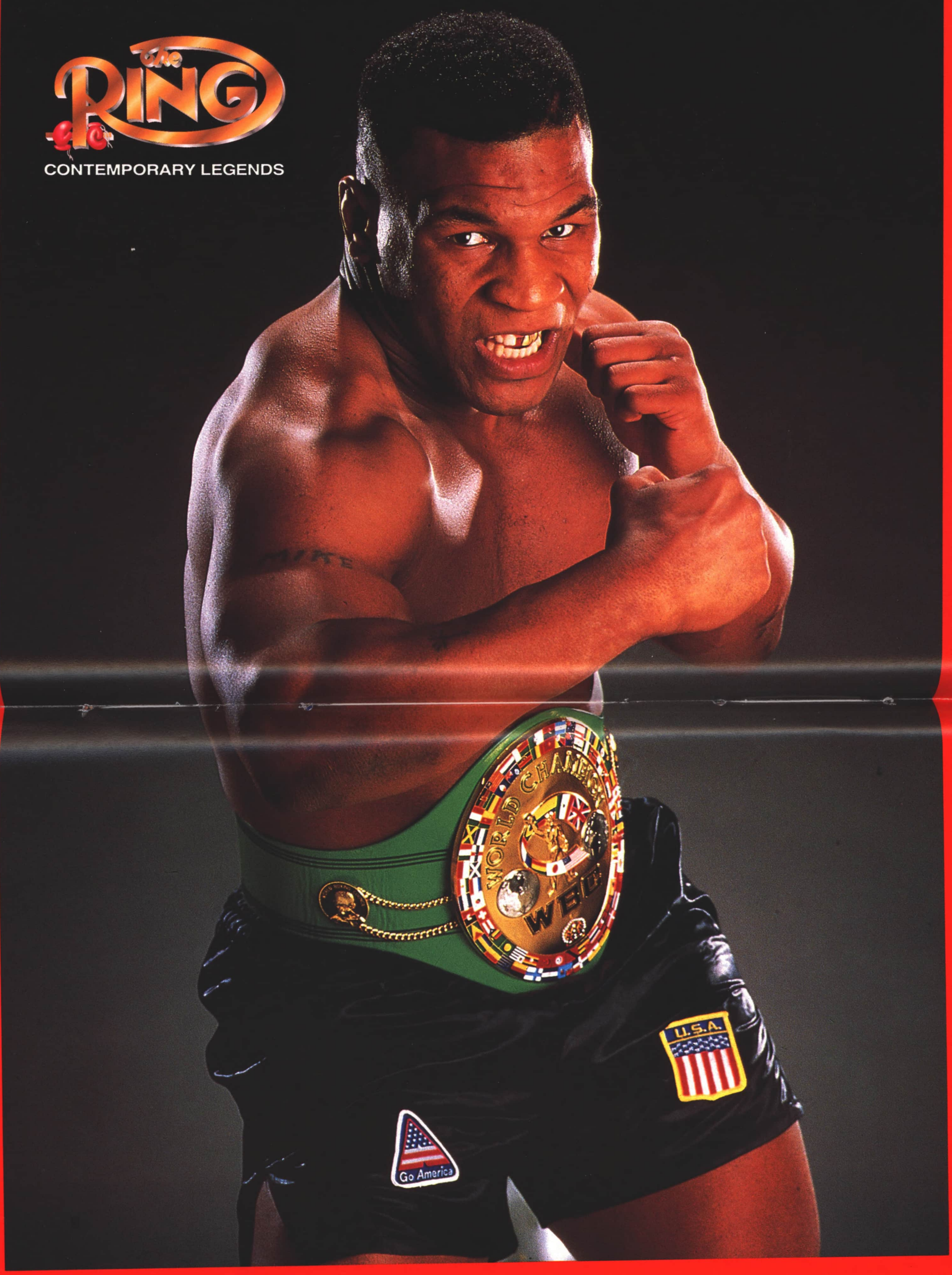


Holmes' first comeback lasted for one fight. In January 1988, he was badly outclassed by then-champion Mike Tyson, who crushed him in four rounds.



The RING

CONTEMPORARY LEGENDS



MIKE TYSON

Heavyweight Champion of the World

Brooklyn, New York

Title Reign: November 22, 1986-February 11, 1990

LIFE AFTER BOXING:

CHERRIES FOR ENRIQUE PINDER

Photos By Teresa Dusgate

By James Dusgate

PITS FOR HILARIO ZAPATA

Hilario Zapata and Enrique Pinder are both former world champions whose fists were forged into tempered steel on the streets of Panama's toughest ghettos. There the parellels end.

Zapata was one of boxing's shooting stars, winning the WBC light flyweight title at age 21 and making seven successful defenses before losing and regaining the crown by age 24. Finding little class opposition among his peers, he moved up to flyweight, won the WBA crown in that division, and went on to set a Panamanian record of 23 world title fight appearances.

Pinder, on the other hand, was Panamanian boxing's Cinderella man, emerging almost unannounced for a single night of glory and fame to wrest the bantamweight crown from the head of Mexico's Rafael Herrera.

The two men have also enjoyed differing fortunes since retiring from the ring. With few financial rewards to show for his fistic career, Pinder, now 44, did some work as a trainer, was employed by the Panamanian Sports Council, moved to New York for a time, and then turned his hand to a couple of unsuccessful business ventures back in Panama. With his income supplemented by a lifetime government pension, today he is to be found selling fruit and vegetables from a roadside stall between downtown Panama City and the international airport. It is a modest but honorable occupation for an unassuming, decent man.

In yet another rerun of a long-standing boxing tradition, Zapata made a bundle and managed to blow it all. He also developed a taste for booze and drugs that rapidly destroyed both his mental and physical health. Today he lives in a hovel with no running water or electricity. He claims to be undergoing rehabilitation, and talks of getting in shape to join compatriots Roberto Duran and Eusebio Pedroza on the comeback trail. At age 33, Zapata is younger than both of them.

The Ring recently caught up with Zapata and Pinder in Panama City—Pinder selling his fruits and veggies, and Zapata down among the dead men. An animated and lucid talker, Pinder shows no physical or mental scars from his 40-plus amateur bouts and 44 pro fights. By

(Continued on page 64)

WHY JAMES TONEY ALMOST LOST TO AN OFF-THE-BOARD UNDERDOG

Dave Tiberi

By Joseph C. Tintle

As IBF middleweight champion James "Lights Out" Toney walked from the ring to his dressing room, strains of pain surged through his thighs and calf muscles. Once inside, he lay flat on his back in an alcove that separated the dressing room and bathroom. The stiffness in his lower back, worse now than it had been during his fight with Dave Tiberi, forced him to remain in a supine position. And the cramps that pinched his sides drew winces from one of boxing's toughest tough guys.

Manager Jackie Kallen, her face swept with concern, hurriedly asked someone to fetch sugar water for her fighter, who was severely dehydrated. A few feet away, Toney's mother stole a glance at her son and sighed.

"I knew James wasn't himself early in the fight," said Sherry Toney. "He usually stalks an opponent like a killer. He should've walked through this guy."

The guy she was referring to was the unheralded, off-the-board challenger. But on this February afternoon at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, Tiberi, a Sunday school teacher from New Castle, Delaware, pressured Toney for 12 rounds.

After the final bell, a joyous Tiberi waved to his boisterous fans, who were certain that he was soon to be an-

Photos By Al Bello

With IBF middleweight champion James Toney well off his top form, clubfighter Dave Tiberi took advantage (above and left), applying pressure for all 12 rounds.

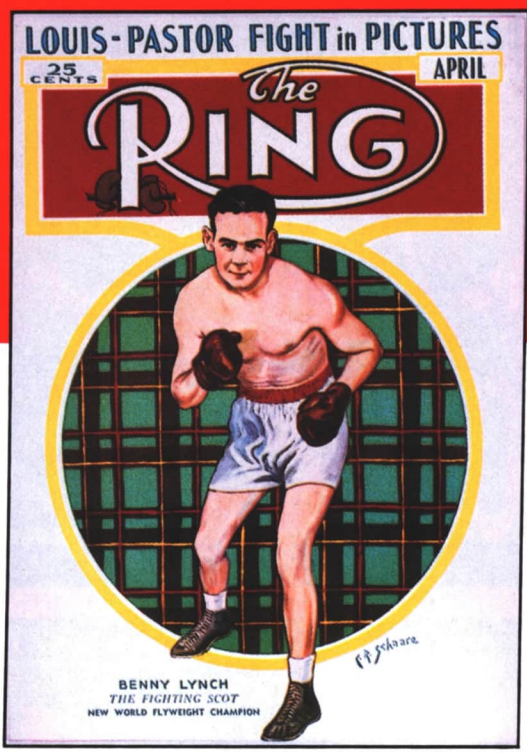
nounced as the new champion. Frank Brunette scored 117-111 in favor of the challenger, but he was outvoted by Bill Lerch and Frank Garza, who saw it 116-111 and 115-112, respectively, for the champion. (The cards of both Lerch and Garza were initially announced incorrectly.) *The Ring* scored 114-113 for Tiberi.

At the postfight press conference, Kallen explained that Toney had experienced "minor weight problems" and, before the fight, had concerned himself with matters other than boxing. After earning a December draw with former WBA champion Mike McCallum, he

(Continued on page 54)

Why The Cheers Have Never Died

THE ENDURING LEGEND OF BENNY LYNCH

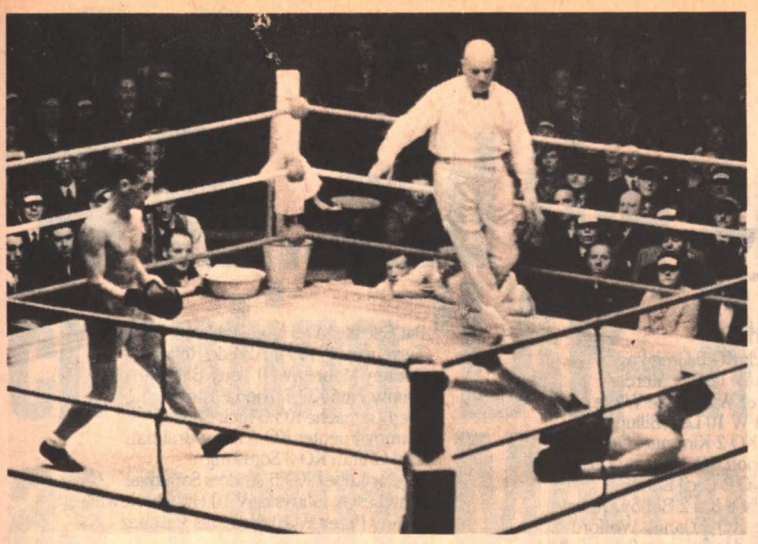


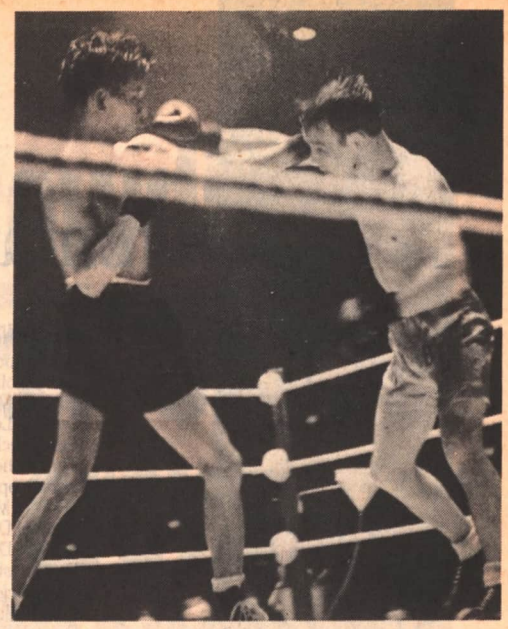
Lynch was the coverboy of our April 1937 edition

I return to the fields of glory
Where the green grass and flowers grow
Where the wind softly sings the story
Of the brave lads of long ago
—The Battle's O'er, by Andy Stewart

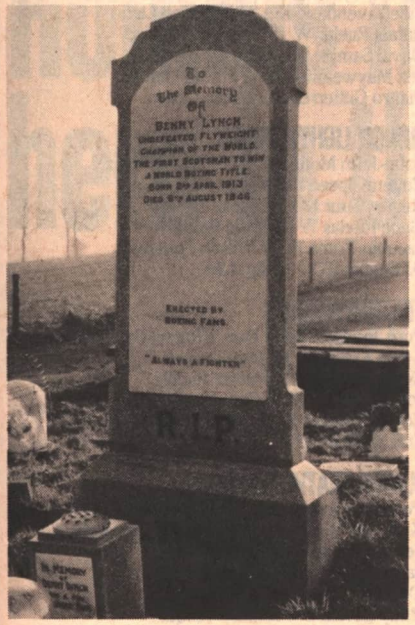
By Ed Maloney

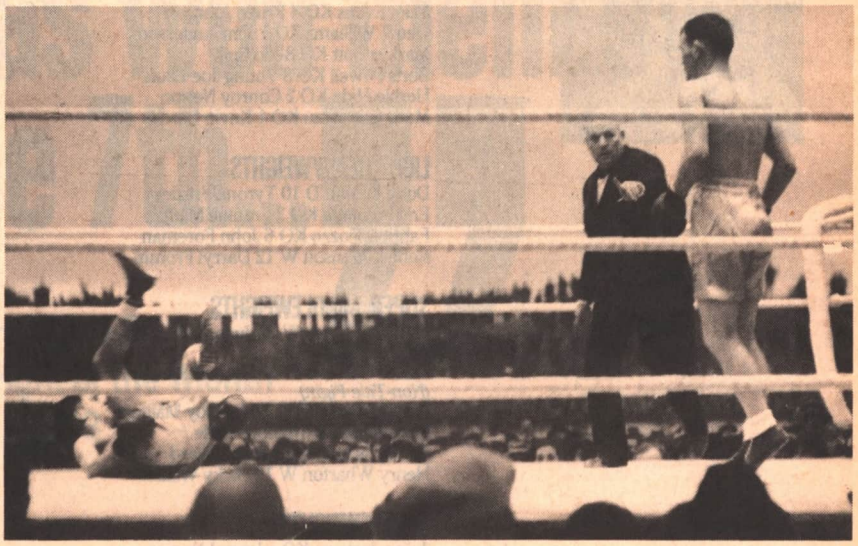
Ireland is supposed to be the land of happy wars and sad love songs. The same can also be said about Scotland, which lays across the North Channel. The Scots are a proud race, with a chauvinistic tradition born from centuries worth of heroic deeds performed on the fields of battle. One happy warrior who became a legend on a field of friendly battle was flyweight Benny Lynch, the first Scottish world champion.





Two of Lynch's greatest triumphs: In September 1935, he won the British, NBA, and IBU flyweight titles by overpowering England's Jackie Brown in two rounds (above). In January 1937, he established himself as undisputed world champion by outpointing Small Montana over 15 rounds (right).





In June 1938, Lynch lost the flyweight title on the scales, and then scored six knockdowns en route to a 12th-round kayo of California's Jackie Jurich (above). The headstone at Lynch's grave, which has since been replaced (left), was testimony to the champion's immense popularity in his homeland.

Nearly 46 years after his death, Lynch enjoys a revered place in Scottish boxing lore. The songs that were written about him are still played on weekly Scottish radio shows in Canada and the United States. To put Lynch's mystic hold in perspective, imagine how Panamanians will recant the exploits of Roberto Duran 46 years after *he* has died.

Lynch's story is not that different from those of other great champions. Born on April 2, 1913, he grew up in a working class section of Glasgow known as the Gorbals.

"It was a poor era," says Ron Olver, a respected British boxing historian. "There weren't that many ways to break out and be successful. And Benny did it in a very big way."

Lynch began his fistic career as a teenager in local carnivals, known as booths, where, not surprisingly, the 5'5" youngster was invariably matched against bigger foes. As his reputation and string of victories grew, he joined traveling booths in search of new and fresh competition. By the early-'30s, the diminutive fighter, who was quick as lightning, and whose punches impacted with the crack of thunder, was the talk of the British Empire.

"He was a real showman in the ring," wrote Willie Gallagher, a reporter who covered Lynch. "He made fans think that they were a part of his victories."

Having exhausted his pool of booth opponents, Lynch returned to Glasgow in the spring of 1931 and turned pro.

From 1931 to 1933, "The Kid from the Gorbals" often fought twice in a week, and ran up a record of 52-10-15. During those years, Lynch engaged in an intense rivalry with fellow Scotsman Paddy Docherty. They fought seven times, with Lynch going 3-2-2. Fan loyalty was intense, and following their March 1933 draw,

(Continued on page 56)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Razor Ruddock KO 8 Greg Page
Larry Holmes W 12 Ray Mercer
Michael Moorer W 10 Mike White
Lennox Lewis W 10 Levi Billups
Tony Tucker KO 2 Kimmuel Odum
Tim Witherspoon KO 1 Jimmy Lee Smith
Bert Cooper KO 2 Cecil Coffee
Tommy Morrison KO 2 Bobby Quarry
Michael Dokes KO 9 Danny Wofford
Michael Dokes KO 6 Danny Stonewalker
Bonecrusher Smith W 10 Mark Wills
Bruce Seldon KO 5 Jesse Ferguson
Tony Willis KO 5 Jimmy Ellis
Frankie Swindell KO 2 Robert Thomas
Mike Evans KO 4 Bruce Johnson
Derek Williams KO 1 Tim Anderson
Markus Bott KO 8 Ric Enis
Boris Powell KO 8 Young Joe Louis
Herbie Hide KO 2 Conroy Nelson
Mark Gastineau KO 1 Kevin Barch

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Doug DeWitt D 10 Tyrone Frazier
Eric Nicoletta KO 3 Frankie Minton
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 6 John Foreman
Robert Johnson W 12 Darryl Fromm

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Mauro Galvano W 12 Juan Carlos Gimenez
(Retains WBC Title)
Mauro Galvano W 10 Ramon Ramos
(Non-Title Fight)
Chris Eubank W 12 Sugar Boy Malinga
Merqui Sosa D 10 Steve Little
Frank Nicotra KO 1 Ralph Ward
Henry Wharton W 10 Nicky Walker

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julian Jackson KO 1 Ismael Negron
(Retains WBC Title)
James Toney W 12 Dave Tiberi
(Retains IBF Title)
Lamar Parks KO 3 Francisco DeJesus
Bernard Hopkins KO 4 Dennis Milton
Danny Garcia KO 9 Lenny Snow
Greg Thomas KO 10 Kevin Tillman

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Gianfranco Rosi W 10 Alfredo Ramirez Torres
(Non-Title Fight)
Chris Pyatt KO 3 Ambrose Mlilo
Wally Swift W 10 Randy Williams
Steven Martinez KO 4 Jose Luis Lopez
Laurent Boudouani KO 3 Clarence White
Yung Kil Chung KO 2 Ricardo Simanonkarit
Bo James W 10 Rafael Williams
Wayne Powell W 12 Oscar Pena

WELTERWEIGHTS
Meldrick Taylor W 12 Glenwood Brown
(Retains WBA Title)
Genaro Leon KO 7 Charles Duffy
Angel Hernandez KO 6 Roman Nunez
Ludovic Proto KO 1 Jorge Bracamonte
Ludovic Proto KO 8 Henry Hughes
Louie Lomeli KO 5 John McIntosh
Michael Benjamin KO 4 Anthony Andrews

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Pernell Whitaker W 10 Harold Brazier
Charles Murray KO 9 Alberto Alcaraz
Pat Barrett KO 2 Mike Johnson
Terrence Alli KO 4 Alfredo Rojas
Rodney Moore W 10 Tony Baltazar
Jimmy Paul KO 7 Todd Foster
Joey Gamache KO 3 Rick Souce
Sammy Fuentes KO 5 Liasu Braimah
Carl Griffith KO 3 Somsong
Hector Lopez KO 5 Andres Sandoval
Viatcheslav Ianovski W 10 Hiroshi Kuwata
Danny Perez W 10 Jose Luis Vasquez

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell KO 1 Leonardo Mattado
Tracy Spann KO 3 Darryl Richardson
Darryll Tyson KO 5 Leon Mancillas
Fidel Avendano KO 2 Maximino Llano
Rafael Ruelas W 10 Rocky Lockridge
David Sample W 10 Fidel Avendano
Jeff Mayweather KO 2 Martin Ochoa
Mauro Gutierrez KO 7 Jose Castro

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
John-John Molina KO 2 Francisco Ortiz
Eugene Speed KO 8 Joey Negron
Regilio Tuur KO 2 Tchoza Mukuta
Gabe Ruelas W 12 Jorge Palomares
Jacobin Yoma KO 7 Wilson Fontalvo
Al Baguio KO 7 Ki Jun Lee

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Tom Johnson Tech. Dec. 5 Rafael Ortega
Kevin Kelley W 12 Troy Dorsey
Kevin Kelley KO 2 Hector Padilla
Jose Martinez W 10 Gaby Romero
Colin McMillan W 12 Percey Commey
Eun Shik Lee KO 2 Jun Llano

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Pedro Decima KO 3 Humberto Escudero
Kennedy McKinney W 12 Baby Sugar Rojas
Jemal Hinton W 10 Lucilo Nolasco
Javier Leon W 10 Francisco Chavez
Daryl Pinckney W 10 Luis Rolon
Rudy Zavala D 8 Johnny Vasquez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Thierry Jacob KO 2 Francisco Gomez
Cecilio Espino KO 11 Luigi Camputaro
Bones Adams KO 1 Juan Perez
Joe Kelly W 12 Ronnie Carroll

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Robert Quiroga W 12 Carlos Mercado
(Retains IBF Title)
Armando Castro KO 10 Antonio Ramirez
Nana Konadu KO 7 Luis Rosario
Jose Luis Bueno D 10 Aljoe Jaro
Lucas Mathew W 12 John Carlo Dabbene

FLYWEIGHTS
Ysaias Zamudio W 10 Absalon Briceno
Grry Penalosa KO 2 Rangga Yulidin
Ulysses Chong W 10 Raul Martinez Marin
Rolando Pascua Tech. Dec. 8 Chong Kyu Chang

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal W 12 Marcos Pacheco
(Retains IBF Title)
Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Domingo Sosa
(Retains WBC Title)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Hideyuki Ohashi W 10 In Kyu Hwang

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MERCER–HOLMES
The TVKO Fight of the Month
February 7, 1992

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Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Larry Holmes

Okay, okay, Larry, so you're *not* Tommy Morrison.

Almost no one picked the 42-year-old Holmes to defeat 4-1 favorite Ray Mercer. But about an hour before the heavyweights began heaving haymakers, there was an omen on the undercard. Like Holmes, Jimmy Paul was a comebacking former world champion. And like Mercer, Todd Foster, Paul's opponent, was a 1988 Olympian who remained unbeaten as a pro. In a minor upset, Paul cut Foster, knocked him down, and forced him to quit.

Holmes settled for a points victory over Mercer. And, we suppose, he'll settle for about $10-million when he challenges undisputed champion Evander Holyfield. He'll be an underdog for that bout, too. Maybe he can talk the promoters into making a Marvin Hagler-Roy Jones bout for the undercard.

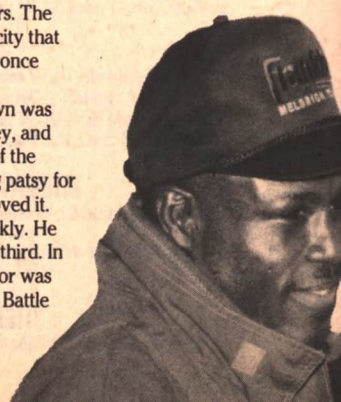
They can hype it as *Omen II.*

Meldrick Taylor W 12 Glenwood Brown,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—WBA welterweight king Taylor hails from Philadelphia, The City of the Brotherly Gloved. The city that boasts of Joe Frazier, Harold Johnson, Joey Giardello, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Jeff Chandler, and countless others. The city where the sparring sessions are better than other places' real fights. The city that has such an appreciation for the fight game; Taylor's trainer, George Benton, once joked that winos who duke it out on the streets feint and throw jabs.

By the time he arrived at the Philadelphia Civic Center on fight night, Brown was probably sick of the history lessons. He hails from rough Plainfield, New Jersey, and while the boxing tradition there is nowhere near as storied as Philly's, some of the streets can be just as mean. The challenger wasn't about to play homecoming patsy for Taylor, and a counter left to the jaw in the final five seconds of round one proved it.

Taylor, 146½, 29-1-1 (15), dropped to the seat of his pants, then got up quickly. He rebounded to capture the second round, but was staggered in a corner in the third. In the fourth, Brown, 146½, 34-3 (24), landed another crunching hook, and Taylor was knocked off-balance enough for his gloves to touch the canvas. Referee Rudy Battle correctly ruled a knockdown.



At precisely the time that he should have capitalized on his advantage, Brown turned strangely passive, allowing Taylor to assume the role of aggressor. While Brown sat back and waited for the chance to land one big bomb, Taylor scored with combinations to the head and body, controlling rounds five through eight. The two warriors split the final four rounds, and though Taylor was battling on his home turf, the announcement of the scoring was lustily booed. Steve Smoger and Patricia Jarman both favored Taylor by a 116-113 count, and Nick Drake gave the champion a 114-113 edge. *The Ring* scored 114-114.

"I got robbed in Meldrick's hometown tonight," said a disgusted Brown. "If we were in Atlantic City or Las Vegas, I would've got the fight."

"As long as I was using the jab," Taylor told his nemesis, "I was dictating the fight. You didn't do well enough to say you got robbed."

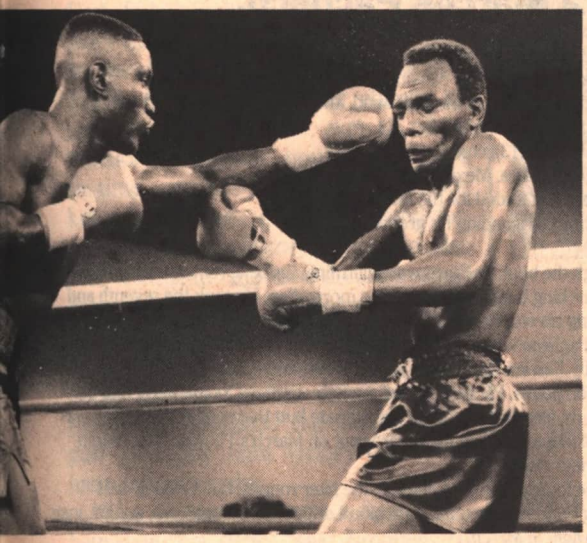
And as long as Taylor was using the jab, he was dictating the postfight press conference, as well.

(1-18-92)

Jeff Ryan

Pernell Whitaker W 10 Harold Brazier,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—When he's not hammering away at some junior welterweight, Brazier hammers away in an auto body shop. Rust is the enemy in both of his careers, but at his night job, it can be particularly troublesome. Witness his Tin-Man-without-an-oil-can performance against Whitaker on the Taylor-Brown undercard. If Brazier is the Earl Scheib of the sweet science, why was Whitaker the one doing all the body work?



Against Brazier, "Sweet Pea" was perfect

For that matter, why was "Sweet Pea" doing all the punching to the head, too? Maybe because this was the moment when 90 ring battles caught up with Brazier's 36-year-old body. Whitaker set the pace, dominated every exchange, and rarely got hit, even when inviting retaliation. Brazier is normally a strong counterpuncher, but against Whitaker, the resident of South Bend, Indiana, was definitely not The Punchback of Notre Dame.

Whitaker, 141, 28-1 (13), was making his 140-pound debut after months of teasing everyone with promises of a flight from light. He appeared to be the same fighter who thoroughly dominated the 135-pound class: a master boxer and defensive wizard with no pop in his punch. And though he was just a shade slower with five pounds added to his 5'5½" frame, he was quick enough to fight on the inside and *still* not get hit.

Each round looked like a Xerox copy of the previous one, with Brazier, 141, 78-11-1 (54), retreating into a defensive shell, and Whitaker continually moving forward, presumably looking to test his strength at his new weight. After 10 tedious rounds, Lynn Carter and Ron Greenley tabbed Whitaker the winner by a 100-90 count, and George Hill had The Pea ahead 100-91. The referee was Frank Cappuccino.

A shutout of a cagey veteran at a new weight would normally boost a fighter's confidence, but something tells us that Whitaker's doesn't need much boosting. As has become his trademark, he ran across the ring, jumped up on the ropes, and pumped his fists triumphantly overhead. When he did it on this night, however, the bout hadn't yet started.

(1-18-92)

Jeff Ryan

Yung Kyun Park KO 9 Seiji Asakawa,

Inchon, South Korea—No one has ever called WBA featherweight champion Park a fighter of finesse. And no one ever will. But the Korean is among boxing's most effective infighters, and after he connected with a counter hook to Asakawa's jaw, the challenger crashed and lay unconscious for some five minutes. Who needs finesse?

A respected puncher, Japan's eighth-ranked Asakawa willingly traded with the champion from the start at the Inchon Indoor Gymnasium. In the second, a Park right dropped him, but he immediately fought back, and fired several accurate combinations to win round three.

In the fourth, fifth, and sixth, Park, 21-1-1 (13), applied constant pressure and repeatedly pinned Asakawa to the ropes. The Japanese's final moment came in the seventh, when he landed often during a desperate rally. But Park never wavered. He dominated the eighth, and in the ninth, his hook brought a conclusive ending. Asakawa, 19-3-1 (14), was counted out at the 1:43 mark.

After eight rounds, the champion was ahead on all three cards. Scoring: Charlerm Prayadsub (Thailand), 77-74; Elias Quintana (United States), 78-71; Silvestre Abainza (Philippines), 78-73.

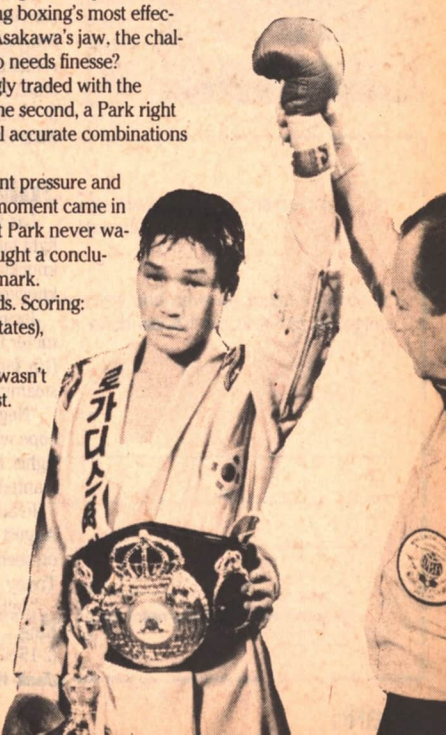
Early on the morning of the fight, there was an omen that it wasn't to be Asakawa's day. En route to the weigh-in, his driver got lost. *Very* lost. Asakawa showed up 3½ hours late.

It was Park's third defense.

(1-25-92)

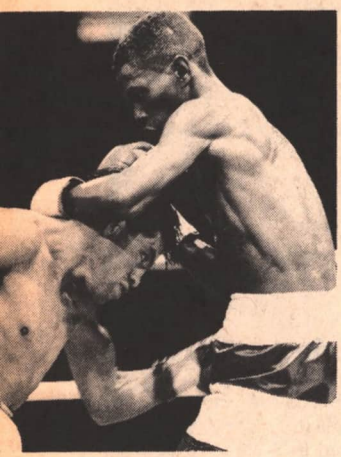
Joe Koizumi

Taylor and Brown after 12 rounds



Park proved tough at home

Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Domingo Sosa,



"Chiquita" kept landing low

Inglewood, California—"Chiquita" Gonzalez, 107¾, Mexico, retained the WBC light flyweight title with a points victory over number-one contender Sosa, 107, Dominican Republic. The decision was unanimous despite referee Dave Nelson's deduction of points in four different rounds because of the champion's low punching. Dae Eun Chung (South Korea) scored 114-109, Davey Pearl (United States) 115-109, and Henry Elespuru (United States) 115-107. Gonzalez was penalized in rounds five, six, eight, and 10. Afterward, he complained that he had punched low because Sosa continually pulled down on his neck.

Sosa, 22-1 (14), was sharp in the first three rounds, making good use of his five-inch reach advantage by boxing and jabbing. But Gonzalez, 32-1 (24), began to work inside in the fourth, and he controlled the rest of the fight. Toward the end of round six, the challenger was pounded along the ropes, and in the ninth, he was staggered by left and right uppercuts to the chin.

Closing as he had opened, Sosa boxed strongly in the 10th, 11th, and 12th rounds, but not well enough to win any of them.

Gonzalez, who repeatedly turned southpaw during the fight, said he reinjured his left hand in round three. He had broken the hand in his previous fight, a decision victory over Melchor Cob Castro in June 1991.

The Mexican said he would next like a unification bout with IBF 108-pound champion Michael Carbajal.

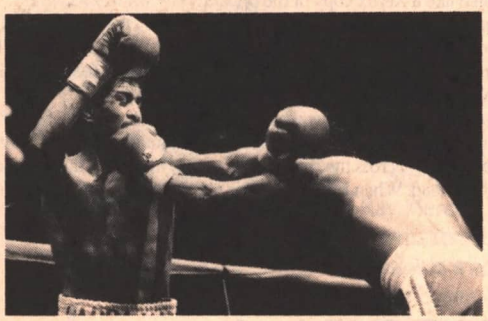
(1-27-92)

David Wood

Michael Carbajal W 12 Marcos Pacheco,

Phoenix, Arizona—IBF junior flyweight champion Carbajal retained the crown for the fifth time by unanimously outpointing number-seven contender Pacheco before a crowd of 3,400 at the Civic Plaza. Cuts and bruises in recent bouts convinced Carbajal to avoid a brawl, but with just a handful of seconds remaining in the last round, an accidental butt opened a cut over his left eye. It took five stitches to close.

The restrained effort of Carbajal, 107½, Phoenix, 23-0 (13), contributed to a less than exciting battle. In the first round, Pacheco, 108, Sonora, Mexico, 23-4-1 (7), stayed away. In the second round, Carbajal did the same. They traded for the first time in the fourth, with Pacheco coming forward and the champion standing his ground and scoring with sweeping lefts.



Carbajal was troubled by Pacheco

Halfway through the bout, Pacheco was swarming. Carbajal remained unruffled, however, and, marching backward, he landed more often. He took the seventh and eighth by increasing his workrate, and by the ninth, the action had picked up considerably. In the 10th, Pacheco was warned for holding behind Carbajal's neck, and in the 11th, referee Bobby Ferrara deducted a point for the same infraction.

Clearly behind on points, Pacheco closed strongly. Carbajal fought back, and the 12th was particularly pleasing—until the unfortunate butt that spoiled the local favorite's afternoon and jeopardized an undercard spot on March's Thomas Hearns-Iran Barkley pay-per-view card.

"We thought the knockout would come in the later rounds, but it didn't," said Carbajal. "Nothing bothered me until I saw blood dripping. I thought, *Oh, no, aw, man, I really wanted to fight in March.*"

Scoring: Joe Garcia, 116-111; Fernandez Vilches, 117-110; Lucien Joubert, 117-113. *The Ring* had Carbajal ahead by 118-112.

Carbajal picked up $75,000; Pacheco $8,000. The bout was televised by ABC.

Carbajal hears the whispers that he may have peaked. Sometimes you make your own luck, and perhaps if he had attacked harder, he might have stopped Pacheco before being butted. Nevertheless, he's survived a stream of frenzied challengers, and he remains a star. If someone like Scotty Olson keeps his momentum, that million-dollar little man's bout may happen after all.

(2-15-92)

Phil Woolever

Julian Jackson KO 1 Ismael Negron,

Las Vegas, Nevada—WBC champion Jackson is developing a reputation for getting fight fans to their seats on time. When Jackson defended the title at The Mirage by knocking out Negron in 50 seconds, it was his second consecutive first-round title fight knockout. (In September, he had kayoed Dennis Milton in 130 seconds.)

Jackson, 159, Virgin Islands, 43-1 (41), brought excitement to a card billed by promoter Don King as "The Gunslingers." Negron, 160, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 16-9-1 (10), failed to land a punch before Jackson caught him at midring with two rights and a steaming hook. Negron crashed, and referee Mills Lane's 10-count was academic.

"Negron was open for the hook, and I just went *boom boom* because he couldn't cope with my speed," said Jackson. "He wasn't warmed up. I went to the body with the rights. He was looking for my right, but *everybody* looks for my right. That's why I wanted to surprise him with the hook."

In attendance was former champion Mike McCallum, who knocked out Jackson in August 1986. He challenged Jackson at the postfight press conference, and the champion seemed willing. Jackson also expressed a desire to face IBF champion James Toney.

"Julian Jackson is the best middleweight in the world, so let 'em all come on," said King.

(2-15-92)

Jack Welsh ■

Billy Graham

(Continued from page 34)

Vejar.

"He was a magnificently skillful boxer," said Markson. "He wasn't much of a puncher, but I always admired his skill."

Perhaps the most impressive fact about Graham is that he was never knocked down.

"Billy once told me, 'Having a good chin is never getting hit twice with the same punch,' " said Teddy Brenner, the matchmaker at Madison Square Garden during Graham's prime.

Graham grew up on Manhattan's East Side. Fighting for the Catholic Boys Club as an 11-year-old 90-pounder, he beat a boxer named Walker Smith. (Smith would later change his name to Ray Robinson, win all of his sanctioned amateur bouts, and, as a six-time world champion, become known as the greatest pound-for-pound boxer in history.) Graham also beat Giardello and two-division world champion Carmen Basilio, and fought welterweight king Kid Gavilan four times. According to *The Ring* record book, he beat Gavilan only once. But those who witnessed the Cuban's August 1951 title fight victory over Graham say otherwise.

"If a fighter ever won a fight, Graham won that fight," said Brenner. "It ranks among the worst decisions I've ever seen."

The blatantly bad decision stemmed from Graham's denial to cooperate with the syndicate of gangsters who governed boxing in the '50s. Shortly before the Gavilan fight, which was held at the Garden, Graham's manager, Irving Cohen, was asked to forfeit a percentage of Graham's contract to underworld figure Frankie Carbo. When Cohen declined, Carbo used his influence, and intimidation, to ensure that Gavilan would retain the title. As soon as the scores were read, Graham became known as the "Uncrowned Welterweight Champion of the World."

In Brenner's 1981 autobiography *Only The Ring Was Square*, he revealed that Arthur Schwartz, one of the judges who had scored for Gavilan, admitted while on his deathbed that he had been pressured into giving the decision to Gavilan. On that pre-

(Continued on page 54)

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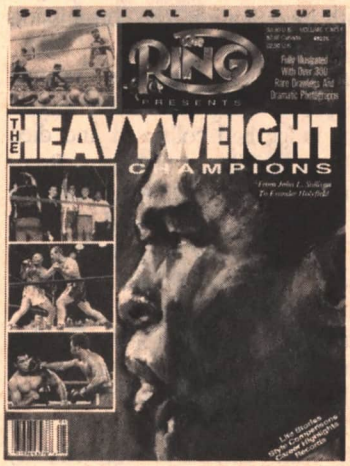

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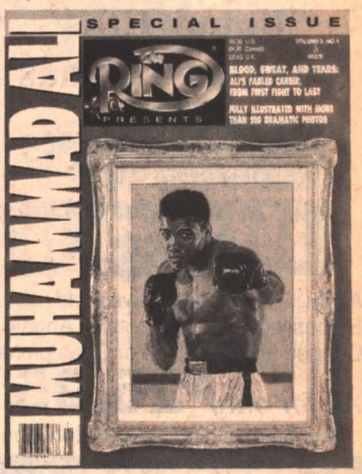

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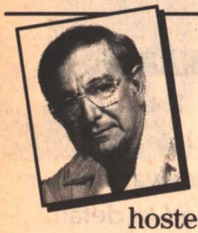

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Billy Graham

(Continued from page 53)

mise, the New York State Athletic Commission was petitioned to overturn the decision and declare Graham the welterweight champion, with his reign running from August 1951 to October 1952. (Fourteen months after their first bout, Gavilan clearly beat Graham in a rematch.) In 1985, after conducting a 12-month investigation, the commission upheld the original decision.

Brenner's story was later refuted when one of Schwartz' relatives said the fight judge had collapsed and died suddenly on a railroad platform. Brenner stands by his story, and Markson stands by his longtime friend.

"If Teddy Brenner said it, it's valid," said Markson. "He wouldn't make up a story like that."

Graham's third fight with Gavilan was not the only controversial match of Graham's career. At the Garden in 1952, he lost a 10-round decision in a rematch with Giardello. Immediately after the fight, Bob Christenberry, the chairman of the New York commission, changed the card of one judge and awarded Graham the fight. A New York State Supreme Court judge subsequently ruled that Christenberry had no right to reverse the decision and restored Giardello as the winner.

"There was never any hard feelings," said Giardello. "That was all for publicity; we had another fight after that. Billy was one of the best I ever fought. It's a shame he never won the championship. That hurts."

A.J. Liebling summed up Graham's career when he wrote, "He was as good as a fighter can be without being a helluva fighter."

Maybe so. But he was a helluva lot better than most. ■

Toney-Tiberi

(Continued from page 45)

had taken a cruise and bought a house.

But she had no idea why Toney had become dehydrated. In fact, she thought everything had gone well in training. As early as round three, though, she and trainer Bill Miller noticed Toney's legs cramp as he stumbled without being hit. Kallen and Miller then watched in disbelief as their fighter began to suck in puffs of air. And they cringed when he hung on to the ropes and invited a flurry of punches. Their only hope was that the 25-year-old Tiberi wouldn't fully capitalize.

Clearly, this was not the Toney who had been so magnificent against McCallum. (Most ringsiders thought he had won that fight). And it certainly wasn't the Toney who had rallied to knock out Michael Nunn. Nor was it the Toney who had come off the floor to earn a split decision over Reggie Johnson.

This was a fighter Kallen and Miller had never seen, a fighter who wasn't following Miller's orders to flick out his jab and give Tiberi angles and movement. But what Miller and Kallen didn't know was that as each round passed, it became more and more difficult for Toney to even try and follow instructions; his calf and back muscles were tightening like a clamp.

"I thought he was playing possum with his opponent like he has in the past," Kallen said. "But he wasn't, and it was an eerie feeling. His electrolytes were out of whack, and his muscles were starved. It was like he was lying in the desert for two days."

Toney, 29-0-2 (20), fought courageously and battled through the pain. When he landed a punch, he struck harder than Tiberi ever could. But Tiberi, 23-3-2 (8), absorbed the punishment and answered with more punches. The challenger's blows were by no means devastating, but for all 12 rounds, he was much busier than Toney, and that at least impressed Brunette.

It wasn't until hours after the fight that Kallen and Miller learned the full story of what had happened to Toney. The champion, who made weight by losing seven pounds in three days, confessed that he had taken diuretics for one month prior to the fight.

"He did that behind our backs," Kallen said. "He tried to take a shortcut in weight loss. He thought he could bluff his way through the fight."

When Kallen and Miller weren't watching, Toney was downing french fries, soda, and candy.

"Buffalo wings, too," the fighter added.

"I didn't know that," Kallen said. "I do p.r.; I don't run the training sessions. I had no clue anything was wrong. Bill Miller, I assume, was unaware of all this." (Miller said he had indeed been unaware.)

From now on, Kallen stated, Toney will no longer sleep alone while in training; Miller will share his room. That way, she figures, there won't be any more last-minute surprises.

"James has a tendency to cheat with food," said Miller, who insisted that Toney had stuck to his gym workouts during training. "And when you cheat, you have to pay."

Toney paid, all right. He paid with 12 rounds of pain. But when it was suggested that he would jeopardize the title if he took the same approach against a better opponent, he adopted his usual feisty tone.

"No one in this division can kayo me," he said. "Even when I was sick with chicken pox [against Sanderline Williams, who held him to a draw], I wasn't beaten."

"Look, this was just a one-time thing," Kallen said. "He's had 30 great fights. This will not happen again."

Toney has since consulted with a nutritionist, who has convinced him that things go better *without* Coke. And though he said after the fight that he'd move up in weight, he now believes he can comfortably remain at 160 pounds—if he follows a proper diet.

"I have three nice cars, and I put the best fuel in them," Kallen said. "I also have a terrific fighter, and I want to put the best food in him. I want James to know about the food he eats, and how to eat properly, that he shouldn't sneak off at night and get pop out of a machine.

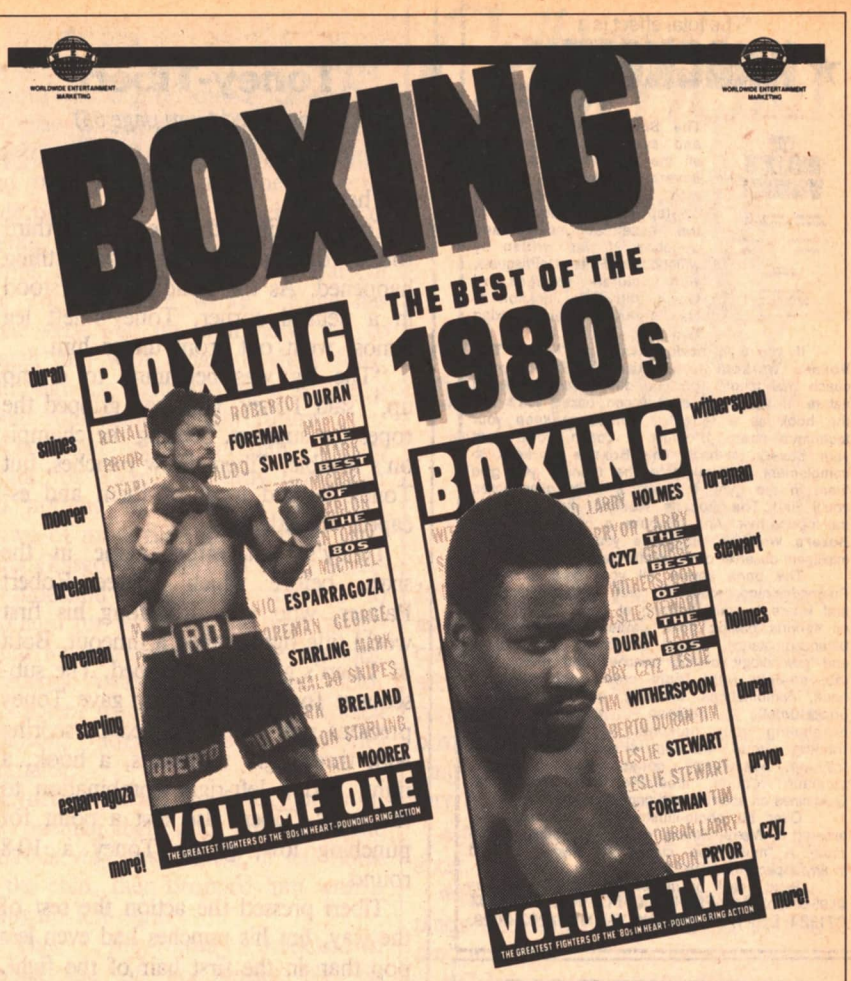
"Other than dehydration, nothing was wrong with James."

Toney said that he was suffering from cramps even before his arrival at the Taj Mahal. Realizing his condition, he tried for a first-round knockout and almost got it. After absorbing a right to the temple and a hook to the chin, Tiberi, 158¼, staggered against the ropes. But the round-ending bell then sounded, and Toney, 159¾, could do no more damage.

By the second round, the champion was already fighting only in spurts. Tiberi, on the other hand, dashed from his stool at the start of each round. On this day, Toney couldn't even intimidate a Sunday school teacher.

Toney lay on the ropes for a good portion of round two. Ringsiders, 500 of whom were Tiberi fans, began shouting the challenger's nickname, "TNT," as he scored with assorted body shots, and a right and hook to

(Continued on page 56)



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Toney-Tiberi

(Continued from page 55)

the head.

Toney again did little in the third round, during which a curious thing happened. As the middleweights stood in a neutral corner, Toney's left leg almost went out from under him.

"The leg was beginning to cramp up," said Toney, who had gripped the ropes for support. Sensing the champion's trouble, Tiberi threw punches, but Toney ducked most of them and escaped unscathed.

Toney's best effort came in the sixth, before which referee Robert Palmer, who was officiating his first world title fight, called a timeout. Both of Tiberi's gloves had ripped. The subsequent four-minute delay gave Toney precious rest. He responded by scoring with three right uppercuts, a hook, a right, and a left-right combination to the body. Tiberi also lost a point for punching low, giving Toney a 10-8 round.

Tiberi pressed the action the rest of the way, but his punches had even less pop than in the first half of the fight. By contrast, Toney's blows were fewer, but heavier. That presumably convinced Lerch and Garza to score for him.

"If effort was a criteria to be used in scoring a fight," Garza wrote to *The Ring,* "then Tiberi would have walked away as a newly crowned champion. Instead, the defensive work of Toney prevented the majority of Tiberi's punches from landing cleanly; most were picked off with the gloves and elbows.

"The pained expression on Toney's face, and his staggered gait, were caused by dehydration, and deceived many people into believing that Tiberi was hurting Toney and winning the fight. Though Tiberi threw the greater number of punches, it was Toney's punches that were more accurate and carried the heavier weight. This made many of the rounds very close, but with the edge going to Toney because of effectiveness, and not effort."

Tiberi's supporters thought otherwise, and as Toney left the ring, the catcalls were directed at him.

"You lost, punk," one spectator shouted.

"Tiberi beat your ass," another bellowed.

Toney ignored their remarks and headed for the dressing room. An hour later, he was back in his hotel suite, where he lay in bed and rested, as Bob Arum, the Florence Nightingale of promoters, sat by his side.

Because of the disparity in scoring, the IBF ordered an immediate rematch, which Arum plans to promote on April 11, as part of the Las Vegas undercard to George Foreman-Alex Stewart.

Toney had better be his old self. After all, unlike many of today's world champions, he wants to fight only solid opponents. And he wants to fight them often. Since January 1991, four of his seven fights have gone 12 rounds. It's a difficult pace, to be sure. If Toney expects to maintain it, he cannot break training even once.

"I'm tired of all the lectures," the champion snapped, clearly bored with the subject. "This fight was just a fluke. It won't ever happen again."

One time was almost one time too many. ■

Benny Lynch

(Continued from page 47)

fans from both sides decided to settle the dispute themselves. Unbeknownst to the fighters, the factions clashed at a dance hall. One man was stabbed to death. Lynch and Docherty never fought each other again.

After completing his series with Docherty, Lynch suffered only three losses in his next 56 fights. By 1934, he was recognized as one of the top flyweights in Great Britain.

Lynch was beautifully proportioned, and looked every bit the champion. His shoulders were sloped and powerful, his chest deep, his forearms strong, and his biceps impressively muscular. His physique suggested punching power, which he surely possessed. His body was tapered at the waist, and his sturdy legs enabled him to fight at a whirlwind pace for 15 grueling rounds.

"Although I've only seen films of Benny, his fights are very entertaining," says Olver. "As a fighter, he had no weaknesses. He had great power—some said he hit as hard as a lightweight—excellent footwork, a good chin, and his ring generalship, in his prime, was perfect."

In May 1934, Lynch dominated Jim Campbell en route to a 15-round deci-

sion that gave him the Scottish flyweight crown. In March 1935, he faced a much more dangerous obstacle, British flyweight king Jackie Brown. Their 12-round non-title bout was unpopularly ruled a draw; Lynch had dropped the champion and landed the more telling blows.

That September, a rematch was sanctioned by the National Boxing Association and International Boxing Union as a world title fight. (Filipino Small Montana was recognized by the powerful New York State Athletic Commission as world champion.) Lynch fulfilled the prophecies of the Scottish press by sending Brown stumbling about the ring and dropping him three times, all in the first round. In all, Brown hit the canvas eight times before the bout was stopped in round two.

Scotland's first world champion left the ring to sheer bedlam.

"He had a tremendous hold on his generation," says Harry Mullan, editor of the British-based *Boxing News*. "He often drew as many as 40,000 people to open-air fights. That's unheard of today. Especially with flyweights."

Lynch's first defense was an eighth-round kayo of Pat Palmer. Fans and promoters on both sides of the Atlantic began to clamor for a title unification bout, and the Lynch-Montana showdown was set for January 1937 in London.

Montana, whose real name was Benjamin Gan, was strictly a master boxer. In fact, he had only seven kayos in 79 fights. He avoided most of Lynch's punches, but the Scotsman continued to force the action, and when he did strike, the blows were heavy. Although Montana scored from all angles, his early success did not deter Lynch.

From the seventh round on, Lynch increased what was already a phenomenal pace, and his body attack began to exact a toll. Slowly, he gained control.

(Near the end of the 15th round, Montana became entangled in the ropes; he was at the mercy of his foe. Ever the sportsman, Lynch helped Montana free. Then the two continued to fight.)

After 15 breathtaking rounds, Lynch got the referee's decision. While Montana felt he won, he did not dispute the verdict. Neither did legendary flyweight champion Jimmy "The Mighty Atom" Wilde, or top contender Peter Kane, who were sitting ringside.

Lynch's first defense of the undisputed crown came in March 1937 against the highly touted Kane. Only 19, the challenger had compiled a record of 46-0 (37). A bright future had been predicted for the powerful little blacksmith from Manchester, England, and Kane was made a 2-1 favorite. Ignoring the odds, Jeff Barr of the *Topical Times* wrote, "Kane has done very well up until now, but to match him with Lynch is sheer folly. Although the fight may be a sellout, it could ruin Kane's bright future."

On fight night, nothing looked bright for Kane. A steady downpour did nothing to prevent a boisterous crowd of more than 45,000 from jamming Glasgow's Shawfield Park. Several thousand Englishmen traveled to Scotland for what was the most anticipated local sporting event in decades. Academy Award-winning actor Victor McLaglen, who had once fought Jack Johnson, attended as a celebrity journalist.

Lynch exploded from his corner at the opening bell and buckled Kane with his very first punch, a left hook to the chin, then dropped him with a followup left-right.

"That first-round knockdown robbed me of my senses for six rounds," Kane said afterward. "And it was not until I was coming up for the seventh round that I learned I had been on the floor, and that the fight had traversed so far."

While Kane's head began to clear, Lynch continued to dominate. In round 12, the Englishman bled from the mouth as Lynch further pummeled him. Ringsiders began urging the referee to stop the fight.

"Kane had won but one round," wrote Trevor Wignall of *The Scottish Daily Express*, "and in the majority of the others, he had not only been outpointed, but outclassed by an opponent who had proved to all present that he was master of his craft."

In addition to his skills, Lynch's sportsmanship was again on display. Early in the fight, Kane slipped and fell. Lynch could have rushed in and finished him with a free shot. Instead, he extended his hand and helped Kane to his feet. (Lynch let it be known that he had no use for fighters who "took liberties" in the ring.)

Lynch resumed his attack in round 13 and scored with heavy blows until Kane fell to a semi-kneeling position and was counted out. The performance

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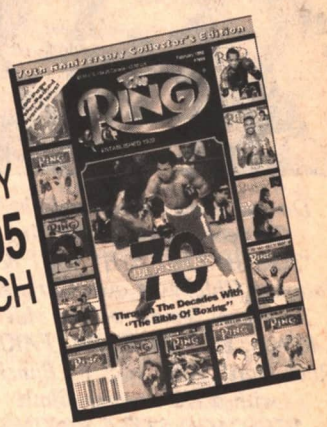

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Benny Lynch

(Continued from page 57)

was so impressive that Lynch was being compared to the legendary Wilde, who held the world flyweight title from 1916-1923.

"He has everything that goes to make a world-beater," Kane said of Lynch, "and I shall be surprised if he does not reign as the flyweight champion for years to come."

Several years ago, Benny's son Robert met Kane in England.

"Kane told me that at the time he fought my father, he didn't believe that anyone would ever beat him, let alone knock him out," Robert Lynch said. "He said, '[Lynch] came out and knocked me right on my backside. That night turned out to be the worst night of my life.' "

Unfortunately, it was during his reign as undisputed champion that Lynch began to lose a struggle with alcohol. As a world champion, he was the toast of his countrymen. Everywhere he went, people wanted to buy a drink for their national hero, and Lynch accommodated as many as he could. In Scotland, there was not yet social awareness as to the potential dangers of drinking; alcoholism was decades away from being recognized as a disease.

Lynch's drinking began to hinder his ability to make weight and perform at a high level. Six months after he dominated Kane, they fought to a rematch draw. His misfortune continued when an injured elbow twice forced postponement of a defense against American Jackie Jurich. When the bout finally materialized, Lynch scaled 6½ pounds over the flyweight limit. The British Boxing Board of Control greenlighted the fight, but only as a non-title affair. (Lynch was heavily fined, and only days after meeting Jurich, he was stripped of the world crown.)

When Lynch entered the outdoor arena in Paisley, Scotland, he received a very unfamiliar greeting. The Kid from the Gorbals was booed.

"The people were terribly disappointed that he lost the title on the scales," said biographer John Burrowes, who wrote *Benny*, which was published in 1982. "A fighter had never lost his title that way before. They felt that Benny had let them down."

That never happened before, either. As it turned out, it was to Jurich's misfortune that the fight was not canceled. Lynch battered the American, scoring six knockdowns en route to a 12th-round stoppage. Lynch's forgiving countrymen cheered him on throughout, but ringsiders reported that following the final knockdown, an uncharacteristically dispassionate Lynch returned to his corner. Some claimed they saw tears in his eyes.

After having let down his countrymen, Lynch continued his drinking, which slowly robbed him of his great athletic ability. Out of necessity, he began to compete as a bantamweight, but weighed 127 for his September 1938 fight with America's K.O. Morgan, and was again fined for coming in over the contracted weight. Only a week after losing a controversial 12-round decision to Morgan, he faced Aurel Toma in London. A career-high 131 pounds and woefully out of shape, Lynch was knocked out for the first and only time. Many a Scotsman left the arena in tears. Lynch's career was over.

In three devastating years, Lynch built a legend that will never be destroyed. He also left behind bittersweet memories of a champion who was great, but who could have been so much greater. His fans declare with utmost certainty that the only man who ever beat Benny Lynch was Lynch himself.

So much has been written about Lynch's downfall that 50 years later, it's difficult to differentiate between truth and fiction. It is for that reason that his wife Annie, who left Lynch during his darkest days and remarried after his death, as well as Robert, prefer not to discuss Benny's life. (A second son, John, died of alcoholism.)

"A lot of what's been written dwells on my father's downfall," says Robert Lynch. "And much of what's been written has been exaggerations or outright lies. He was such a great champion, and provided so many thrills, that to dwell on the negative is unjust."

For instance: It's been written several times that Lynch sold the coveted Lonsdale Belt for a bottle of wine. However, Lynch wasn't a wine drinker—he preferred whiskey—and, according to *Boxing News* and other sources in Britain, he was never actually awarded the Belt.

On two occasions, motion picture executives approached the family about filming Lynch's story. Ann hired lawyers, and at one point asked a Scottish

(Continued on page 60)

'60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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Benny Lynch

(Continued from page 58)

member of Parliament to intervene, because the scripts contained libelous information. The movies were never made.

After his last official bout, Lynch returned to booth fighting throughout Scotland. He held several jobs during the last eight years of his life, and often capitalized on his celebrity status.

"Benny was still held in high regard by many people," says Burrowes. "He was a very well-liked man. There was always someone who would give him some money or would buy him a drink."

Alcohol's vicelike grip, which had robbed Lynch of his family and career, steadily ate away at his insides. On August 6, 1946, Lynch, 33, was admitted to a local hospital with pneumonia, brought on by malnutrition and alcoholism. He died that night.

"In the pubs, especially among the fight crowd, Benny is very much alive today," says Glasgow sportswriter Dick Currie, himself a former flyweight.

Lynch was considered one of the hardest hitters of his day, but his hands did the most damage when they held a glass filled with whiskey. It's more than a bit ironic that his spirit lives on in the very places that helped send him to his premature death.

Like many love affairs, Lynch's romance with his countrymen was torrid and passionate. He is still remembered fondly, even by Scotsmen born long after he died.

Burrowes relates one such incident in the 1940s: "They were holding a raffle for charity. And Benny walked in and donated one of his robes. He could have easily gotten several hundred pounds for it at the time. And he could have used it. But doing what he did was very typical of the guy. The was a big heart in that little man."

The inhabitants of Glasgow have not forgotten such acts. Several years ago, they noticed the weathering of the headstone above Lynch's grave. So they banded together and erected a new one.

"It was a grand affair," recalled Burrowes. "Many people, and many fighters past and present, were there. So was his widow. It was a moving moment. It's really quite incredible, especially when you consider that most of the people here never saw him, or were even alive when he fought."

At his most glorious, which is how he deserves to be remembered, Lynch combined the best of superior athletic ability, determination, and sportsmanship at the highest levels of boxing, and won convincingly time and time again. His memory continues to burn brightly, due to his meteoric rise, as well as his sudden and tragic decline.

What is also remembered is the poor little kid from the Gorbals who made it to the top of the hill and never turned his back on his own. Lynch was a man of the people. *His* people.

"I never met the man," says Olver. "But I do know acquaintances of his. And nobody has a bad word to say about Benny. The painful memories are there, but they talk about his greatness."

After all, first love is always something special. ■

Holmes-Mercer

(Continued from page 39)

He had been trying to erase the memory of two controversial decision losses to Michael Spinks, one of which led him to tell the judges of Nevada to kiss his "big black behind." Now, the lasting memory wasn't one of him offering up the big black butt for kissing, but for kicking. Ever endearing himself to the masses, a short time after the defeat, he looked at a photo of his prone form on the canvas and said, "I'll take another picture like that for another three-million dollars."

Not surprisingly, Holmes entered the ring for the Mercer bout to a great many boos, mixed in with some cheers. Mercer appeared wearing a towel instead of a robe, but if his idea was to scare Holmes into thinking it was Son of Tyson in the other corner, the strategy backfired when he revealed his midsection. He was a career-high 228¾, almost four pounds heavier than when he showed up for the Morrison fight in questionable shape. Mercer was giving Holmes the same chance everyone else was: none.

Maybe the '88 gold medalist thought he could get it done with a punch or two, and in the opening round, it sure looked that way. Mercer shot out a hard jab, and Holmes staggered backward across the ring, his facial expression that of a man who had just opened his car door and stepped into an open manhole.

"Man," Holmes would say later, "he scared the s_____ out of me. But the oldness in me said, 'No, you ain't gonna fall!' "

On this night, the oldness in him didn't reveal itself in the form of fists laboring in slow motion or feet that couldn't take a backward step, but instead in experience and pride. Holmes began landing his still-solid right cross in round two, nailing Mercer three times just before the bell. Then, in the third, Holmes established what would be his strategy for the night. To conserve his strength and save his legs, he began spending stretches of time in the corner. He'd invite Mercer in, fend him off with outstretched arms, then counter with right crosses or the right uppercuts that Morrison had used so effectively.

"The defense was his key," Mercer said. "That's a defense I wasn't accustomed to. I couldn't get past those arms."

By round four, Mercer was directing Holmes toward the corner, but once he got the former titlist there, he was curiously unable to inflict much damage. Mercer seemed to outwork his rival in rounds four and five, and in the sixth, he did put a quiver in Holmes' legs with a sizzling left hook. But instead of falling, Holmes, in an act of chutzpah befitting a 42-year-old man brazen enough to challenge an unbeaten 30-year-old, turned away from Mercer, looked into TVKO's on-the-apron camera, and barked, "I'm not Tommy Morrison!"

By the seventh, Holmes was realizing that he could absorb Mercer's shots, and that the best of them weren't coming with a whole lot of frequency. Holmes, 233, 54-3 (37), kept jabbing, countering with rights, and tying up Mercer whenever he tried a combination. Mercer, 18-1 (13), took the eighth on two cards, but Holmes outpunched his badly tiring foe in rounds nine, 10, and 11, and returned to his corner with his ears ringing only from chants of "Lar-ry, Lar-ry, Lar-ry," and not from Mercer's flying leather.

As the final round began, a confident Holmes swiveled his hips, stuck out a jab, then relied on the ropes for support when Mercer bulled in, scoring with a jarring right and a head-snapping right uppercut. Mercer walked through a Holmes flurry and continued firing right until the bell, and he took the last round on two cards. But he

had waited too long to impose his will and disdain for Holmes' power. When the cards were tallied, Holmes had triumphed by scores of 117-111 (Eugene Grant), 117-112 (Phil Newman), and 115-113 (John Poturaj).

"I lost the fight," a surprisingly resigned and extremely classy Mercer said about a half hour after the last uppercut had trimmed his beard. "Larry is a legend, and when you fight a legend, anything can happen. When you're 42 years old and it's close, you're gonna get the decision. If you're 42 and it's close, maybe you *should* get it."

"You're only as old as the way you live," grandfather Holmes said. "I live good. There are people out there who run marathons and are 70, 80 years old. I am still a good fighter. I'm not looking for any shortcuts."

Except, of course, the one from the Convention Center back to his hotel room. For 36 minutes, Holmes had put all 42 of his years on display for everyone to see, but now, there was a part of him that he wanted to keep to himself.

"I don't want you to see a 42-year-old man cry," he said before departing. "I'm gonna go in my room now and cry like hell."

***

There is nothing magical or mystical about Atlantic City in the winter. It's not a detachment from reality, like its rival, Las Vegas. There are no people walking around in shorts and tank tops in February, no erupting volcanoes on the street, and no white tigers in hotel lobbies. You're not lost in a timeless land of no clocks or a recession-proof haven of $2.19 breakfasts and $4.19 dinners. The houses don't sit under palm trees, and they certainly don't have pools.

Atlantic City in the winter is huddled homeless people peering through the fog on the beach, sea gulls picking at the garbage blowing across The Boardwalk, tenements breaking apart in the wind, and a bitter cold chafing every inch of exposed skin.

In the aftermath of Holmes' upset, a walk along The Boardwalk was a frozen reminder that this night was all about bitter cold reality and not the waving of some magic wand. Holmes didn't so much work a miracle, a la Sugar Ray Leonard or Buster Douglas, as he did play out a scene that we now see, in retrospect, was perfectly written for him. Holmes wouldn't have been able to put himself in position for a lucrative spring or summer clash with Holyfield if not for a few factors working perfectly in his favor on the night of February 7.

For starters, he picked the right opponent. Though Mercer figured to eventually hunt the old man down at some point during the fight, "Merciless" is slow, hittable, and relatively inexperienced. Holmes would have been drilled harder and more often by Foreman or Razor Ruddock, and been pressured more relentlessly by Riddick Bowe. Fighting one of the stupidest bouts of any world-class heavyweight in recent memory, Mercer allowed a 42-year-old opponent to do the only things he could do to last 12 rounds: dictate the pace, fight going backward as little as possible, and hang out in the corner whenever he wished to rest his legs.

"I knew Ray Mercer was the best fighter for me to fight," Holmes said. "There are a lot of guys out there I shouldn't fight because of styles, like Tyson. But Mercer was made to order for me."

Also made to order for Holmes on this night was referee Steve Smoger, who oddly chose not to penalize—or even warn—the ex-champ when he repeatedly grabbed the ropes for leverage and support. And Holmes was the beneficiary of judges who seemed to give him the benefit of every doubt, handing in score sheets that dripped with more sentiment than Hallmark cards.

Despite it all, however, one cold reality stands out above all others: Maybe, just maybe, Holmes is a lot greater fighter than we ever gave him credit for being, and maybe, just maybe, this era of heavyweights isn't the new Golden Age that it has been proclaimed. It took 12 rounds of guile and boxing skills against heavyweight king Holyfield for us to understand that Foreman was more than just a brute. Through 12 unexpected rounds against Mercer, Holmes showed us that he might have fit in with Ali, Frazier, and Foreman quite nicely. And Mercer showed us that, in those days, he might have needed lots of luck just to bludgeon his way into the top 10.

Larry Holmes proved that, even at age 42, he'll never be a Tommy Morrison. Now it's up to Evander Holyfield to prove that, at any age, he can even be a Kenny Norton.

On that blustery February night in Atlantic City, youth was served, all right—served with a challenge. ■

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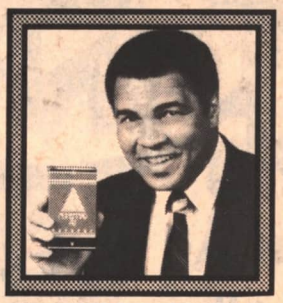

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 29)

Who Will Become Boxing's Dominant Heavyweight?

The game can't always have a dominant heavyweight, nor does it necessarily need one. The ugliest post-Tyson scenario would be a return to three different titlists, all of whom would inspire us the way Greg Page, Tony Tubbs, and Tim Witherspoon once did. In one sense, Tyson's greatest accomplishment was unifying the title. That Buster Douglas, and now Evander Holyfield, have kept it unified is a minor miracle. Don't worry about the emergence of a dominant heavyweight. Let's just hope for *one* champion.

Should Holyfield make five more defenses and retire unbeaten, he'll still be remembered for the fight he never had. There's nothing he can do about it, of course; he was ready and willing to face Tyson. Most observers picked Tyson to regain the title, so his conviction may directly extend Holyfield's reign. The champion would be favored to defeat both George Foreman and Larry Holmes. Michael Moorer and Lennox Lewis remain question marks. That leaves Razor Ruddock and Riddick Bowe as the most dangerous contenders. Don't bet on it happening, but wouldn't it be ironic if Holyfield beats them and turns out to be a dominant champion after all?

Will A New Superstar Emerge?

History suggests that one always does. After Jack Dempsey came Joe Louis. Then Sugar Ray Robinson and Rocky Marciano shared center stage. Muhammad Ali lasted two decades, and Sugar Ray Leonard followed. Finally came Tyson. And now?

Evander Holyfield will ultimately earn more than $100-million, but he's not the answer. Obviously, Holmes and Foreman are short-term propositions. It's too late for Pernell Whitaker, Jeff Fenech, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Meldrick Taylor.

Who, then? Riddick Bowe has star potential; he's our best bet. (One little detail remains: He'll have to win the undisputed title.) Michael Moorer and James Toney offer a Tysonesque appeal. Don't look for any bonebreaking American heavyweights to emerge from the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

(Continued on page 64)

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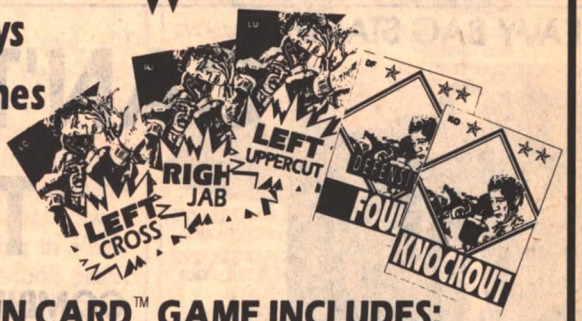

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Mike Tyson

(Continued from page 63)

But after the supremely talented Oscar de la Hoya wins a gold medal, everyone will be sure that he's a boxer, and not a basketball player at Georgetown.

What Is Tyson's Place In Heavyweight History?

A great fighter for his time, but not for all-time. The Tyson who quickly kayoed Michael Spinks would likely have been competitive with any champion in history. But there are two negatives. First, where Jack Dempsey was dethroned by Gene Tunney and Muhammad Ali by Joe Frazier, Tyson lost the title to Buster Douglas, who did nothing before scoring the greatest upset ever, and less after it.

Second, Tyson's career was cut short before he was given the opportunity to regain the title. Louis rebounded magnificently from a crushing loss to Max Schmeling, Ali came back to twice beat Frazier, and Dempsey almost kayoed Tunney the second time around. It will be recorded that Tyson twice topped Razor Ruddock and then left the scene.

"Tyson just came along at the right time," trainer Eddie Futch said coldly.

Perhaps. But at least he made that time his. ■

Zapata & Pinder

(Continued from page 43)

contrast, Zapata is prematurely aged, the shell of the great fighter whose glittering skills were admired the world over. While boxing flotsam is easy enough to find in most countries, it is always tragic to see a once-great athlete reduced to a wreck, not by the punches he received in the ring, but by his inability to cope with his success.

For an outsider, finding Zapata is no easy task. No stranger in his right mind ventures into the San Miguelito ghetto on the off-chance of running into a former world boxing champion. The district teems with 200,000 of Panama's most wretched social outcasts, including a fair share of its toughest hoodlums, guys with a vocation for leg-breaking and throat-cutting to rival New York City's finest.

Contact was first made with Zapata's former trainer, Maria "Toto" Murillo, a lady with whom few men would dare trifle. Having operated out of Panama's world-famed fight factory, the Maranon, for many years, she set up shop in 1990 at the Rodrigo Colon Gym, which is owned by Zapata's former manager, Luis Spada. It is in the San Miguelito district where she hopes to unearth another rough diamond that can be molded into a future world champion.

It was Toto who, for a small fee, set up an interview. On the day and at the time appointed, she acted as both guide and bodyguard, leading *The Ring's* reporter and accompanying photographer through the maze of potholed streets and tumbledown houses to the corner of J Street, where Zapata was to be waiting. (He lives in the environs of a women's prison.)

Two years earlier, and with only the images of old press photos to go by, seeing Zapata in the flesh as an inpatient at Panama's main psychiatric hospital had been a shattering experience. This time he was at least easily recognizable: hair prematurely streaked with gray, a number of teeth missing, a scruffy sweatshirt, torn pants, and

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sneakers. The one-time monarch of the ring looked more like a prince of thieves, accompanied as he was by an entourage of hangers-on with whom he plays soccer in the afternoons, and scores dope with when he can scrape together enough money.

Apart from his immediate family, Maria Toto appears to be the only person genuinely concerned about Zapata's drug addiction.

"I've told Spada over and over that we have to do something to help Hilario and his family," she said. "Hilario has gotten discouraged because he feels that nobody cares what happens to him. I don't have the wherewithal to help him financially, but I wish Mr. Spada or the boxing authorities would do something to at least sort out his legal position so I can get him back into training.

"It isn't too late for Hilario to make a comeback. He says he wants to, but unless he gets help, he'll carry on in the same groove. It breaks my heart to see him in this state; I just want something to be done to get him out of this situation and, hopefully, back into the ring again.

"He's not punchy, and he's still young, but he needs help. Some days he and his family have nothing to eat. God only knows how he manages to lay his hands on some money when he's desperate . . . "

Despite Toto's genuine concern, Zapata appears optimistic.

"I'm under treatment now," he says. "In fact, I've gotten a little overweight. I was real skinny before, but now I actually need to lose a few pounds. That's why I play football in the afternoons, to help me get in shape. It also motivates me."

He doesn't, however, consider himself completely cured of drug abuse.

"I'm still fighting against that," he said. "Sometimes I give in to it—it's the hardest thing in the world not to—but then I straighten myself out again. What I need is to get away from here. If I could just get back into training somewhere else, like the U.S. or Europe, I believe I could do very well."

By his own admission, it was when Zapata experienced failure that his problems started.

"I suppose losing the world flyweight title to [Fidel] Bassa [in February 1987] sparked it all off," he said. " You may remember that in the first fight in Barranquilla, the fans nearly killed me! In fact, I lost my title the day I set foot in Colombia. The people were so hostile, they would not only shout abuse, but even throw stones at me in the streets! You can ask Toto. She was there, she saw it."

The arena for Zapata's fight in Barranquilla was the tennis stadium of a local country club. It was an unlikely venue for a title bout that turned into a near-riot. Zapata was intimidated from the outset, and as fans tried to climb into the ring in the eighth round, he found himself in his opponent's corner, and on the receiving end of blows from person (or persons) unknown. The champion's seconds intervened and guided him to the relative safety of his own corner, where he was allowed five minutes to recover. Missiles—mostly beer cans—continued to be thrown into the ring for the remainder of the 15 rounds. The 24-year-old, largely unknown Bassa was eventually awarded a comfortable points victory.

Considering the circumstances, Bassa must have been either extremely brave or very foolhardy for honoring his commitment to a return in Panama City. The rematch proved to be another fiasco, with as many as 50 people reportedly injured. The greatest surprise was not the violence, but the fact that after dropping the champion in the first round, Zapata could do no better than earn a draw.

"At the time," Zapata said, "I didn't feel I had lost either fight—certainly not the second one here in Panama that was declared a draw. I never accepted those decisions in my own mind, and the repeated postponements of our third fight were the last straw. I spent five months in training in Venezuela for a fight that never took place. Three times it was postponed because Bassa kept getting sick. Then he hurt his hand. I was so frustrated by the time I came back to Panama, I knew I had been unfairly robbed of my title and had nowhere to go. So I decided to take a fight against Julio Gudino—and lost. Mentally, I wasn't in it. It was another nightmare. I just couldn't believe it.

"It was at that point that everything seemed to go to pieces. Before I knew it, I was all washed up. I still feel that if I had gotten the return with Bassa, I could have won, and my life now would be very different. I was still a young champion, for God's sake! Even now I'm only 33. Look at all the old guys fighting today, even going for world championships. I still have something to offer in the ring."

(Continued on page 66)

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Zapata & Pinder

(Continued from page 65)

It was recently rumored that Zapata could be observed roaming the streets of the capital barefoot and half-naked. Maria Toto emphatically denied such stories. The fighter, she said, was another ex-fighter, "Baby" Francis, who had previosuly been deported from New York after drug trafficking charges were brought against him.

Whatever the truth, the road back for Zapata looks long and hard, and is guaranteed to include a generous sprinkling of pitfalls along the way. The road back to a drug-free life, that is. Any hopes of a return to the ring, however faint they might be, depend on his first beating his personal demons. And apart from the tremendous self-will that Zapata will have to summon up, any hope to success may ultimately hinge upon an outsider gambling on a once-brilliant, but now washed-up, fighter.

***

Enrique Pinder's life is much less complicated than Zapata's. The small house he bought with the proceeds from his only decent paydays (his title-winning fight and one defense), and his $300-a-month government pension, assure he and his family of a measure of financial stability, which he supplements through his job as a street vendor.

Pinder is surprisingly happy with his lot, grateful for the opportunities life has given him. Born into a desperately poor family, he aimed to be a jockey, but fell off the first horse he rode. He started boxing at age 11 or 12 in order to learn to defend himself.

"I was so skinny that I'd get pushed around by the other kids," he recalled. "And even when I learned to box, I was forced to develop the skills of self-defense; I wasn't strong enough to throw a big punch. As I moved through the amateur ranks, I didn't develop physically as much as I'd have liked. I never did make it into the Olympics, because I weighed barely 80 pounds.

"I did pretty good the first few years. Of my first 20 fights I won 18, with one draw and one loss. People didn't seem to have a lot of confidence in me, though. They still saw me as too little and lacking power. It got to the point where my career wasn't going anywhere, and the sports reporters here in Panama were pretty much writing me off. That was when a big change occurred in my life. Mr. Isaac Kresh took over as my manager. He saw something in me that others didn't. He felt I had the potential to go all the way."

The step Kresh took was to improve Pinder's diet, increasing his weight and strength with meat and milk. As a result, the fighter lost only one of his next 20 bouts. He eventually moved up to bantamweight, the division that offered the most opportunities. But his best fighting weight was never more than 108 pounds.

Pinder remains in excellent mental and physical health, for which he credits his classy ring skills.

"I knew I couldn't take big punches, so I learned to avoid them," he said. "Early on I realized I had to develop the traditional style of hitting and not getting hit. The bantamweight division during my time was very tough. They used to call it 'the Vietnam of boxing' because so many good fighters—Lionel Rose, Chucho Castillo, Rafael Herrera, and Ruben Olivares, of course—made it so danger-

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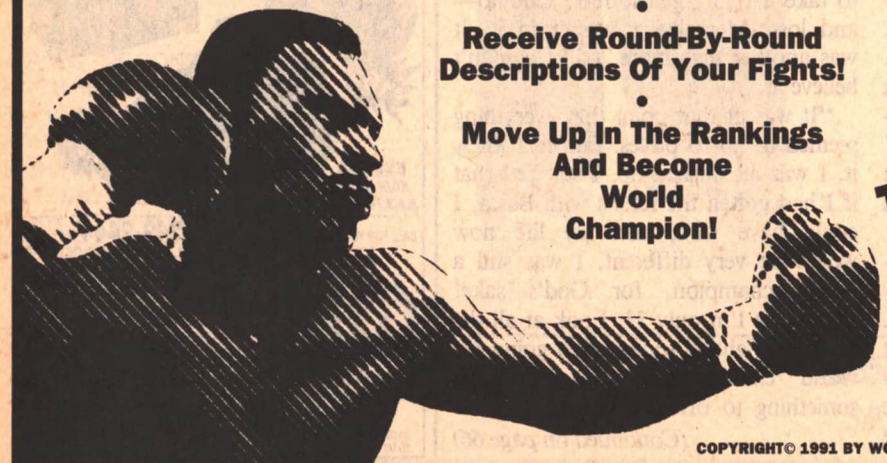

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ous. I couldn't compete with them on their terms as far as strength and punching were concerned, but I gave a good account of myself with my style of boxing."

The 5'7" Pinder received his title fight opportunity in July 1972, challenging Herrera in Panama City. Despite the hometown advantage, he was the underdog; Herrera was coming off a title-winning kayo of the already-legendary Olivares. But he knew that if he lasted the distance, he had a strong chance of winning. Boxing and moving smartly, he extended the bout, frustrated the champion, and clearly won a unanimous 15-round decision.

As if to prove that he wasn't a one-night wonder, Pinder followed the victory with a 10-round decision over former champion Chucho Castillo in a non-title fight at the Inglewood Forum.

"I think Castillo was my toughest opponent ever," he said. "Maybe it was because I was champion and he was looking to win back the title. But you know Ruben Olivares also said that Castillo gave him his toughest fight. He had a great punch and was very aggressive."

In January 1973, Pinder defended at home against the hard-punching Romeo Anaya. Suckered into trading with the Mexican challenger, he was knocked out in three rounds. The rematch, fought at the Forum seven months later, was a replay; Pinder boxed beautifully for two rounds, and was then kayoed in the third.

"After that, I guess I knew I had nowhere to go except down," he said. "I had another 10-rounder that I lost on points [vs. Francisco Villegas], and Isaac Kresh said I should retire. He knew my heart wasn't in it anymore. I was only 26, I could have fought on, but Mr. Kresh didn't want me to.

"He was like a second father to me. He was the one that made me a champion; he believed in me when everyone else thought I had no future. I'll always be grateful to him, he treated me better than anyone I ever met in boxing. Thanks to him not only was I world champion, but I never got hurt."

The unspectacular Pinder is one of boxing's genuine success stories, something about which we hear far too little. He put a great deal into the sport for only a modest return, but today is one of the game's survivors, and there aren't too many of those around. Zapata was blessed with much greater skills and success, but his headlong fall into drug addiction was as swift as his meteoric rise to greatness. Indeed, the very ease with which he scaled the fistic heights may ultimately have contributed to his undoing.

Bernard Shaw wrote that "to have succeeded is to have finished one's business on earth, like the male spider who is killed by the female the moment he has succeeded in his courtship." Zapata is well on the way to confirming this cynical definition of success, just as Pinder substantiates quite a different thesis: that it is all a question of making the greatest profit from the fewest mistakes. The two former champions continue to illustrate one of sport's great ironies—that life after the ring is both possible and impossible. ■

James Dusgate, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is a freelance writer based in Costa Rica.

Buck Smith

(Continued from page 21)

"I fight so often [32 times in 1991] to stay sharp and learn how to fight against different styles," said Smith. "There's no style out there I haven't seen. I have fought a lot of people no one's heard of, but a lot of 'em are guys who are very good competition. If anyone criticizes me, they're people who don't know me and don't follow my career.

"No one pays you to spar in a gym. I do my sparring with a live opponent—an opponent who is trying to knock me out—and we do it with live people in the seats. If people will watch us outside in a rainstorm, then let's fight in the rain."

Smith's life is void of luxuries. He and manager Sean Gibbons live in Oklahoma City and travel America's interstates in a 1986 Honda Civic hatchback. Since Smith's first fight in August 1987, the Civic has logged 205,000 miles.

"That car takes us everywhere," said Smith. "To me, it seems more like it's been a million miles. Some of the places we go, it takes forever to get there, and forever to get back home again."

In one 34-day stretch, Smith fought in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, Bismarck, North Dakota, Indianapolis, Memphis, Lexington again, and Tulsa. Each bout included a round-trip drive from Oklahoma City.

"I hear the same questions all the time," said Smith. "I'm asked why I don't leave Oklahoma, why I fight so often, why we drive that old car, why I don't get a so-called big-time manager.

"Well, Oklahoma's my home. There's no rule that says you can't be a champion and live in Oklahoma. All the traveling we do—I enjoy it. I meet a lot of people and see the country. That car, it gets us where we're going. Nothing wrong with that."

The car has survived the spectrum of weather conditions, a collision with a deer in Montana, and a recent assault by vandals.

"In all that time, the car broke down only one time," Gibbons said. "Of course, when it did quit on us, we were in the middle of nowhere. We just looked at each other and I said, 'Somebody's gonna have to walk, find us some help.' I was the one who walked."

Smith and Gibbons share a two-bedroom house that once was home to Team O'Grady—maverick promoter Pat and his son, former lightweight champion Sean. (Pat was Gibbons' uncle.) After Pat died in 1988, the house

(Continued on page 70)

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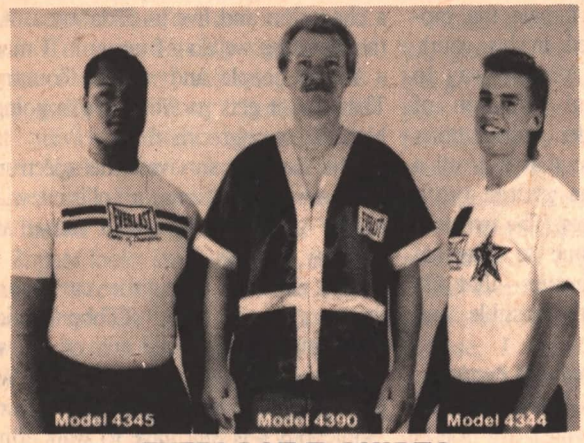

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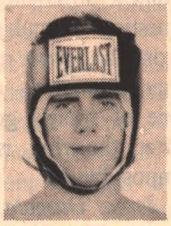

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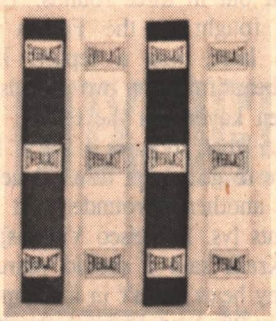

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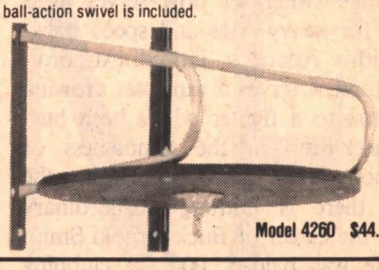

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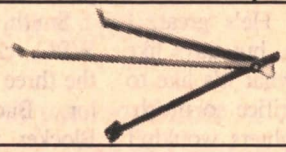

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Buck Smith

(Continued from page 67)

became a combination home/office/training center for Smith and Gibbons.

While Gibbons makes deals in the front room, Smith toils in a 16-by-16 ring in the backyard. What was once a children's swing set now serves as a stand for heavy bags and speed bags.

Smith's record is indeed extraordinary, and it serves a purpose: drawing attention to a fighter who's been buried neck-deep in the remoteness of Oklahoma. But if you look past the stats, there is nothing extraordinary about the career of Buck Arnold Smith Jr. He was paid $5,000 for clubbing Wangila, and he estimates his total take for nearly 100 other bouts at less than $20,000.

"My thing has never been money," said Smith. "I'm not in boxing to get one payday and get out. If the money comes someday, fine. If it doesn't, that's fine, too. My thing is a title, but I want a shot because I'm good, not because I know the right people.

"After Wangila, all these people came in with their business cards, wanting to talk about my future. Where were they when I was driving from Oklahoma to North Dakota? They want to sign me to a contract, but I bet they wouldn't help drive to North Dakota."

"Look at most of the top fighters today," Smith said. "Can you imagine Meldrick Taylor taking a Honda Civic 500 miles for a fight? He's great, I give him all the respect, but guys like that can't really know what it's like to work this hard and sacrifice so much.

"Most of the top fighters wouldn't even train in the places I fight. They wouldn't know what to do if there wasn't mirrors on every wall and thick carpet on the floor."

In his victory over Wangila, Smith used a volley of hooks to knock the 1988 Olympic gold medalist out of the ring and into retirement. After the loss, Wangila indicated he was heading home to Kenya.

The triumph avenged Smith's June 1989 loss to Wangila on the undercard of Leonard-Hearns II. In that six-rounder, Smith scored a knockdown and was effective throughout, but Wangila emerged the winner by split decision.

Smith hasn't lost since. His first defeat came in his first fight, when he volunteered from an Oklahoma City audience to sub for a no-show. He fought someone named Ali Smith for $50.

Buck had 15 minutes to prepare and competed in street shorts and basketball shoes. He had no amateur background and only the most basic skills, but he did have the lungs to last the four rounds. What seemed a spontaneous stunt became an obsession.

"That first one got me hooked; I didn't want anything else but to become a good boxer," he recalled. "I had some success, but it wasn't until I beat Kirkland Laing in London [Smith's 39th fight, in January 1990] that I really started thinking about maybe winning a championship."

Smith, who does not work regularly with a trainer, borrowed his bobbing, weaving style from videotapes. He spends evenings studying fights screened on a 19-inch television. He copies the movement that once was Mike Tyson's trademark, as well as "Iron Mike's" pet combination—left hook to the body, followed by an uppercut with either hand.

"It took a long time to get here, but we're in a position to be considered for big fights," Smith said. "I've improved as a fighter, my mechanics are better, I'm smarter. I think I belong among the best welterweights.

"When it's my time, I'll be ready. That's another good thing about fighting so often—I'm always in shape. I can be ready for anything in 10 days. Once you get that call, you've got to perform."

Smith, who is now rated 13th by the WBC, closely monitors the status of the three welterweight champions, Taylor, Buddy McGirt, and Maurice Blocker.

"When I get my chance, I'll know my man inside-out," said Smith. "I'm paying attention."

"Based on what I've seen," Arum added, "Buck could probably compete with anybody. He could catch a guy not on his best that night and win a championship."

Until a major match is made, Smith will not interrupt his road warrior routine. But he is considering the purchase of new transportation. He wants a mini-van, something with upgraded comfort and horsepower.

"But you know, when the Civic's cleaned up, it don't look too bad," he said with a smile. "Shopping for cars isn't something I worry about. Someday I'll get something nice."

There's no rush. Buck Smith believes he is destined to reach boxing's highest level. On a trip to the top, even a weary Honda can deliver a sweet ride. ■

Bill Haisten writes for Tulsa World, a daily newspaper based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

masterful skills and respect for his quiet dignity.

"One of the things so wonderful is that he is such a classy, calm individual," Burke says. "Al's afraid of no one in the ring. That's not cockiness, it's confidence. And outside the ring he's always smiling. Everywhere we go people come up and say, 'This kid's got class.' "

All but one of Kotey's wins have come by knockout. The lone fight to go the distance was a July 1990 12-rounder against Danny Porter in which Kotey retained the British Commonwealth title he had won one year before. It was a struggle; Kotey had suffered from a nasty stomach flu the day before the fight. He was weak, but he won every round, simply outboxing and outjabbing his foe.

"And that's when the writers started calling him world-class," says Burke.

Kotey feels he is ready for a world title shot, and all concerned parties agree. The only obstacle: While he is ranked in the top 12 by all three alphabet organizations, he's not a mandatory challenger.

Says promoter Peltz, "He's the number-one flyweight in the world in my opinion. He's starting to get USA Network exposure, so when some people see how good he is, they may not want to fight him."

Until the opportunity arises, Kotey is willing to face anyone. Sooner or later he'll arrive at number one, at which point a champion will have to fight him. In his silent, dignified way, he is prepared for that day. With solid work habits, with a maturity and intelligence in the ring, and with his devastating left hook, he knows his time will come. For now, he waits poised, like a cobra, ready to strike at a moment's notice.

Lou Greenstein is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia. ■

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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of January

WBA as of December

IBF as of February

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	2	5	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	3	6	7
Lennox Lewis (GB)	4	3	6
Michael Moorer (USA)	5	8	9
George Foreman (USA)	6	4	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	7	11	11
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	8	7	8
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	10	-
Bert Cooper (USA)	10	9	12
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	3
Ray Mercer (USA)	-	-	5
Carl Williams (USA)	15	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	1	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	4	3
Dennis Andries (GB)	3	5	12
Johnny Nelson (GB)	4	3	2
Derek Angol (GB)	5	2	5
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	6	8	6
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	7	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	8	6	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	9	1	1
Richard Mason (USA)	10	-	10
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	7	7
Akim Tafer (FRA)	14	9	-
Bashiru Ali (NIG)	20	10	-
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Mike Hunter (USA)	23	12	4
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	8
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	-	-	9

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTR)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	1	3	3
Frank Tate (USA)	2	8	1
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	2	2
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	5	-	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	6	-	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	7	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	8	6	4
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	9	-	-
Crawford Ashley (GB)	10	11	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	12	1	12
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	13	4	8
Saul Montana (MEX)	16	5	5
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	17	7	-
Ed Mack (USA)	19	9	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	28	10	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	6
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	-	7
Booker Word (USA)	15	-	9
Henry Maske (GER)	11	-	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	2	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	3	1
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	5	-
James Cook (GB)	4	1	7
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	6	-	-
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	7	9	10
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	8	-	3
Lindell Holmes (USA)	9	7	4
Merqui Sosa (DR)	10	-	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	-	4	6
Ron Essett (USA)	11	6	-
Frank Liles (USA)	16	8	-
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	-	10	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
John Jarvis (USA)	-	-	5
Nelson Alves (GER)	20	-	8
Tim Littles (USA)	-	-	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	3	6
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	4	4
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	5	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	2	1
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	9
Steve Collins (USA)	6	1	3
Willie Monroe (USA)	7	-	-
Ismael Negron (USA)	8	-	-
Roy Jones (USA)	9	-	8
Ron Collins (USA)	10	-	-
Thomas Tate (USA)	26	6	-
Jun Sok Hwang	-	7	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	19	8	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	9	-
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	10	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	-	-	5
Percy Harris (USA)	24	-	7
Dave Tiberi (USA)	16	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	1	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	-	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	2	7
Carl Daniels (USA)	4	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	5	5	6
Wally Swift (GB)	6	-	3
Jean Claude Fontana (FRA)	7	11	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	8	-	-
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	6	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	10	4	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	12	3	11
Kitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	21	7	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	10
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	9	-
Pat Lawlor (USA)	19	10	9
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	15	-	2
Vincent Pettway (USA)	14	-	4
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	11	-	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	13	-	8

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	7	12
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	9	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	3	10
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	4	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	6	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	7	6	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	8	-	7
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	9	11	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	10	8	11
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	1	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	2	9
Simon Brown (USA)	-	5	-
Yori Campas (MEX)	15	10	5
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	4
Kevin Pompey (USA)	27	-	6
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	2	2	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	3	3	5
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	4	-	-
Terrence Ali (USA)	5	5	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	6	4	4

Loreto Garza (USA)	7	9	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	8	-	-
Ike Quartey (GHA)	9	-	9
Harold Brazier (USA)	10	-	10
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pyung Sup Kim (KOR)	-	6	-
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	-	7	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	21	8	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	25	10	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	1
Charles Murray (USA)	13	-	3
Roger Mayweather (USA)	16	-	6
Oba Carr (USA)	20	-	7
Andy Holligan (GB)	12	-	8

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	-
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	1	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	2	2	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	3	9	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	4	7	7
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	6	-	8
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	7	-	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	8	5	4
Poli Diaz (SPA)	9	6	-
Antonio Renzo (ITA)	10	-	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	11	3	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	4	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	14	8	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	12	10	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	17	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	23	-	6
Todd Foster (USA)	18	-	9
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	13	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	1	1	-
John-John Molina (PR)	2	4	1
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	3	8	10
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	4	5	11
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	5	-	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	6
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	3	3
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	8	2	-
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	9	-	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	10	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Eugene Speed (USA)	12	6	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	19	7	-
Daniel Londas (FRA)	15	9	-
Omar Catari (VEN)	-	10	-
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	2
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	4
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	23	-	5
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	7
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	8
Francisco Valdez (MEX)	-	-	9

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	1	5	9
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	1	5
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	3	9	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	4	-	-
Jose Ramos (DR)	5	-	-
Ever Beleno (COL)	6	7	10
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	7	8	-
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	8	-	-
Miguel Francia (ARG)	9	-	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	2	2
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	3	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	13	4	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	6	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	11	10	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C

November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	3
James Leija (USA)	12	11	4
Troy Dorsey (USA)	-	-	6
Harold Rhodes (USA)	24	-	7
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	17	-	8

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	-	4
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	2	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	4	3	8
Pedro Decima (ARG)	5	-	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	6	4	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	8	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	9	6	-
Otilio Gallegos (MEX)	10	-	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	5	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	21	7	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	8	9
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	15	9	-
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	2
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	3
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	-	11	7
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	-	6
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	3	3	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	4	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	5	1	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	6	-	9
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	7	-	2
Junior Jones (USA)	8	2	3
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	9	4	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	10	10	5
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	C	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	-	5	1
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	13	6	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	7	-
Luis Malave (VEN)	-	8	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	-	9	11
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	4
Francisco Arroyo (PAN)	29	-	7
Clarence Adams (USA)	16	-	8
Ray Minus (BAH)	-	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	1	1	7
Greg Richardson (USA)	2	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	3	2	10
Luis Bueno (MEX)	4	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	5	-	1
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	11	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	7	6	-
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	8	-	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	9	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	10	4	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	21	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	-	5	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	-	7	2
Jing Gil Byun (KOR)	27	8	-
Guillermo Salcedo (COL)	-	9	-
Johnny Tapia (USA)	-	10	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	11	-	3
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	5
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	6
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	12	12	8
Antonio Ramirez (USA)	-	-	9

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	1	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	2	-	3
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	3	6	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	4	4	7
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	5	-	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	6	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	7	11	6
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	18	1	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	16	2	1
David Griman (VEN)	-	3	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	5	9
Julio Gudino (PAN)	-	7	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	20	8	4
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	14	9	-
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	10	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	2
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	-	-	5
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	8
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	1	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	8	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	3	4	-
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	5	-	3
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	7	-	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	8	5	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	9	-	-
Ryuichi Suhara (JAP)	10	12	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Myung Woo Yuh (JAP)	-	1	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	13	2	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	12	3	6
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	14	6	1
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	7	2
Kwan Soo Oh (KOR)	-	9	-
Noel Tunacao (PHIL)	-	10	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Marcos Pacheco (MEX)	-	-	7
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	9
Mario Sajulan (PHIL)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	2	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	5	5
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	9	2
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	4	-	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	5	-	3
Danny Nunez (DR)	6	11	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	7	7	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	8	4	4
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	9	-	-
Jusup Shin (KOR)	10	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	12	1	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	13	3	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	-	6	-
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	24	8	6
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	20	10	-
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	25	-	1
Said Iskandar (INDO)	17	-	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	8
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	21	12	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	27	-	10

The RING CLASSIC

WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP TONY DeMARCO: His Life Story

From The Ring, July 1955

By Murray Goodman

Tony DeMarco still doesn't believe he's the world welterweight champion.

The 23-year-old youth from the North End of Boston, however, has accepted it as fabulous fact and now intends to avail himself fully of the advantages of wearing the coveted crown.

"I'm going to fight," he said, "as often as I can. I will defend the title whenever possible. The glory of it is fine, but you can't eat glory. I want to make money with the title, and I'm so sure that I've got at least an even chance of keeping it no matter who I fight that I'll be in there letting them try to take it from me as fast as they challenge.

"Let's quit kidding. I'm in this business to make money. Sure, I like to fight. I've been fighting with gloves since I was 10 years old. But I want to get married and I want to buy a home for my family. You can't do that with pictures of your last fight. You've got to be a fighting champion. If I was like Rocky Marciano and made a quarter of a million every fight, it would be different, maybe. I wouldn't have to fight so much. But a welterweight doesn't get a chance at that kind of dough. I'd like to put the title on the line every three months."

Tony DeMarco, to begin with, won the world welterweight championship by knocking out Johnny Saxton, of Philadelphia, in the 14th round of a thriller in the Boston Garden on Friday, April Fool's Day. There were not too many who thought the squat, 5'5" converted southpaw could do it.

The odds were 11-5 at bell-time that the hitherto overcautious Saxton would retain the title. But this once Saxton chose to fight, and the result was a great battle that saw DeMarco with a split edge on points until a left

hook stunned the champion and made him helpless.

Thus champ DeMarco became New England's eighth Bay State world champion. There are some who consider Lou Brouillard, the former welterweight and middleweight king, a New Englander, but southpaw Lou was a French-Canadian from Quebec. It is fateful, perhaps, that the first welterweight champion was Mysterious Billy Smith, of Eastport, Maine. Two other Massachusetts battlers, Mike "Twin" Sullivan, of Cambridge, and Billy "Honey" Mellody, of Charlestown, also wore the 147-pound robe. It is perhaps a stroke of destiny, too, that, like Rocky Marciano, DeMarco is the son of a cobbler.

***

Most of the stories after the Boston fight had in them the line "small for a welterweight."

Sure, DeMarco is only 5'5", but people have forgotten that three of the greatest welterweights of all-time, Ted "Kid" Lewis, Jimmy McLarnin, and Henry Armstrong, were almost as small. (Lewis was 5'5½", the same as baby-faced Irishman McLarnin, and triple champ "Hammerin' Hank" was 5'5¼".)

***

Tony DeMarco is Leonard Liotta. He is still called "Nardo" by his family, which consists of Mr. and Mrs. James Liotta and sisters Mary and Josie. A younger brother, Gary, died. Tony's close friends call him "Leo." They have never accepted the fistic name of Tony DeMarco, which he borrowed from a friend so that he could enter the amateurs.

"I was only 15," he declared. "You had to be 16 to get in the amateurs. He was 16, so I took his name and his birth certificate. Funny thing: Later, he wanted to fight, but he can't be Tony DeMarco because that's me. So he takes the name of Michael Temini, another kid on the block. Then Mike wants to box, and *he* has to take another name."

Tony, or Leonardo, was born and still lives at 13 Fleet Street, in Boston's North End, a teeming little Italy. The family resides in a five-room flat, and it may be that sentiment may keep them there for a while longer.

Mother Liotta and sister Josie have never seen Tony fight. They stay home and pray. Papa James and Mary are the attendant rooters. When Tony won the title, it was Mary who called home with the glad tidings.

"You bring Tony home right away," ordered Mama Liotta. "The neighbors want to say hello to our new champ."

***

It was in the cobbled streets of the tough North End, and in the neighboring Park Department that Tony learned his fighting. It was the hard way. He was a southpaw. He swung from the floor and from the ceiling.

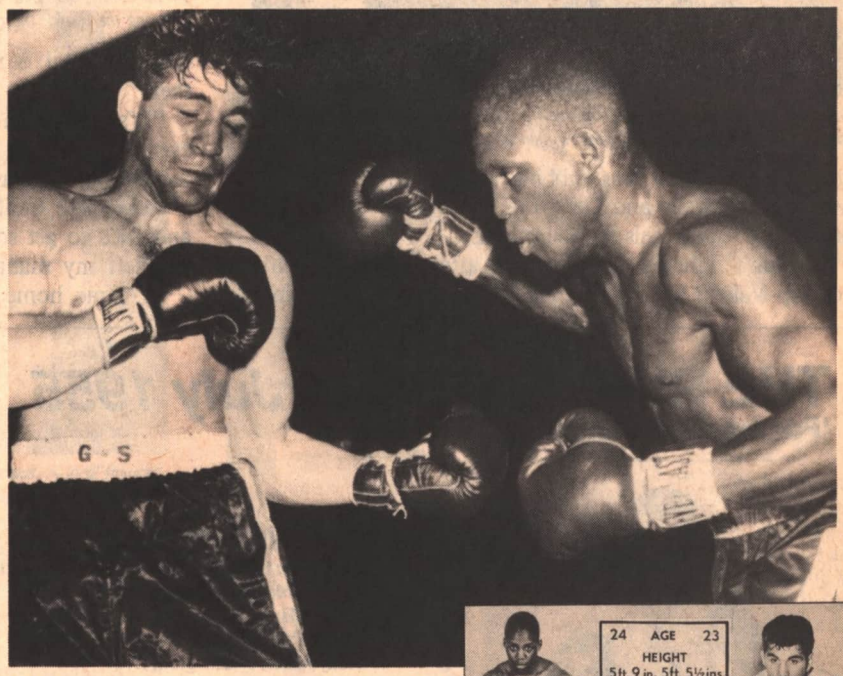
He knew nothing except that you had to keep punching or get hurt. He learned to punch. He was all of 16 when Mike Nazzaro, a Park Department worker, got him into the tournaments. They fought for sweaters and jackets. Then he moved up into the amateurs.

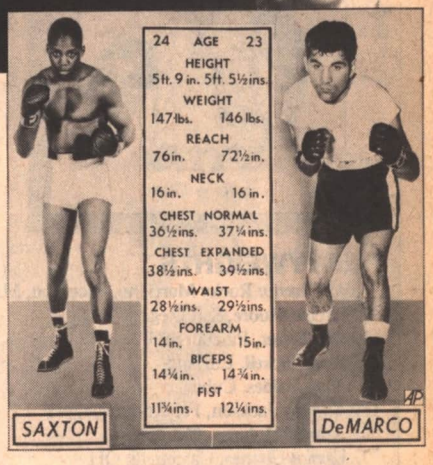
"I had 14 amateur fights," he said. "I won 12. Georgie Araujo beat me. Last year I knocked him out. I lost the other one with a cut eye.

"The record books have me starting as a pro on December 10, 1948. I had three fights before then. I was in the New England amateurs at Boston that year. That was the year that Marciano and Chuck Davey and Johnny Saxton won titles in the nationals here. I was licked by Araujo in the featherweight finals. I never thought then that I would be fighting Saxton for the welterweight title seven years later.

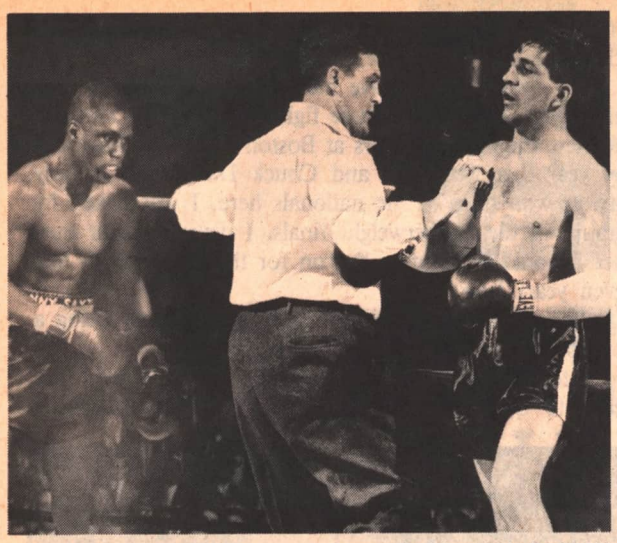
"I wasn't a very good fighter when I started. Being a southpaw didn't help. They converted me.

"It took me quite a while to get used to it. Twice I was ready to quit. The first time was when Art Suffolatta knocked me out in New Haven in 1950. The second time was in May 1952, when I was having manager trouble. I figured maybe a change in scenery would help, so I got away from Boston for a while, and went to Newark. Angelo Pucci looked after me, and he did the best he could. He kept me busy fighting in Newark and Trenton and around New York. But I was a nobody in those days, and it was tough for Pucci to get a decent payday for me. I was winning, but that didn't mean much. I had to get a name for myself, but it looked like a long, tough grind, and I got disgusted. I couldn't see any profit just barely covering my living expenses, so I lit out for Montreal to try my luck. It was worse than it had been around Newark. I not only was getting no money, but I was





To the surprise of ringsiders, defending welterweight champion Johnny Saxton brawled with hooker Tony DeMarco (above). It cost him the title in his first defense. The tale of the tape reveals Saxton's considerable advantages in height and reach (right).



Saxton is glassy-eyed as Mel Manning steps between the fighters in the fateful 14th round. DeMarco, a converted southpaw, had turned the fight with a single hook.

In the 14th, DeMarco clinched victory by accelerating and dropping Saxton. Entering the round, the challenger was ahead on two of the three official cards.

getting licked. That was rubbing it in too much. After I lost to Brian Kelly and Gene Poirer, I got so disgusted, I decided to chuck this fight business.

"I didn't fight for a whole year after that, and then I got Rip Valenti to help me. He got me Bobby Agrippino, who was and is my friend. I haven't lost a fight since then.

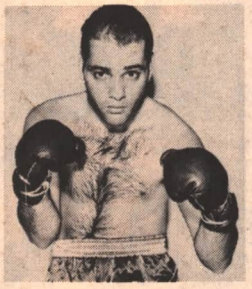
"It's easy for a fighter to get discouraged. Many times even after fights, I was still broke. The family needed money, and I was fighting for peanuts.

"I went to California to work as a construction laborer and tried to get some fights. I couldn't get any because I had left my manager.

"I came home disgusted and told Rip the story. He

THE RING RATINGS, *July 1955*

(For month ending May 21, 1955)



Bobo Olson

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Rocky Marciano**, Brockton, MA

1. **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA
2. **Bob Baker**, Pittsburgh, PA
3. **Don Cockell**, England
4. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
5. **Tommy Jackson**, Far Rockaway, NY
6. **Johnny Holman**, Chicago, IL
7. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
8. **Earl Walls**, Canada
9. **Rex Layne**, Lewiston, UT
10. **Heinz Neuhaus**, Germany

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Floyd Patterson**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
4. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad, BWI
5. **Willi Hoepner**, Germany
6. **Paul Andrews**, Buffalo, NY
7. **Randy Turpin**, England
8. **Gerhard Hecht**, Germany
9. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
10. **Bob Satterfield**, Chicago, IL

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Carl (Bobo) Olson**, Honolulu, HI

1. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Charley Humez**, France
3. **Rocky Castellani**, Cleveland, OH
4. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.
5. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
6. **Eduardo Lausse**, Argentina
7. **Bobby Dykes**, Miami, FL
8. **Gil Turner**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Ronnie Delaney**, Akron, OH
10. **Hans Streitz**, Germany

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Tony DeMarco**, Boston, MA

1. **Carmen Basilio**, Syracuse, NY
2. **Johnny Saxton**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Ramon Fuentes**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Vince Martinez**, Paterson, NJ
5. **Maurice Harper**, Oakland, CA
6. **Virgil Akins**, St. Louis, MO
7. **Hector Constance**, Trinidad, BWI
8. **Del Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
9. **Chico Vejar**, Stamford, CT
10. **Kid Gavilan**, Cuba

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **James Carter**, New York, NY

1. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
2. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
3. **Frankie Ryff**, New York, NY
4. **Wallace (Bud) Smith**, Cincinnati, OH
5. **Orlando Zulueta**, Cuba
6. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
7. **Paddy DeMarco**, Brooklyn, NY
8. **Richie Howard**, Canada
9. **Serafin Ferrer**, France
10. **Joe Lopes**, Sacramento, CA

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Sandy Saddler**, New York, NY

1. **Percy Bassett**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Ciro Morasen**, Cuba
3. **Ray Famechon**, France
4. **Teddy Davis**, Hartford, CT
5. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
6. **Carmelo Costa**, Brooklyn, NY
7. **Lulu Perez**, Brooklyn, NY
8. **Billy Kelly**, Ireland
9. **Rudy Garcia**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Orlando Echevarria**, Cuba

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Robert Cohen**, France

1. **Raton Macias**, Mexico
2. **Mario D'Agata**, Italy
3. **Willie Toweel**, South Africa
4. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
5. **Andre Valignat**, France
6. **Chamrern Songkitrat**, Thailand
7. **Hilare Pratesi**, France
8. **Bobby Sinn**, Australia
9. **Peter Keenan**, Scotland
10. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Pascual Perez**, Argentina

1. **Dai Dower**, Wales
2. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
3. **Yoshio Shirai**, Japan
4. **Nazzareno Gianelli**, Italy
5. **Jake Tuli**, South Africa
6. **Hitoshi Misako**, Japan
7. **Tanny Campo**, Philippines
8. **Oscar Suarez**, Cuba
9. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
10. **Keeny Teran**, San Jose, CA

straightened me out. He got Sammy Fuller and Frankie Campbell to train me. Sammy fought guys like McLarnin and Ross and Ambers and Petrolle. He worked with me and taught me.

"I learned. Only that draw with Jimmy Carter earlier this year isn't a win on my record since Fuller and Campbell took over my education. I had to make weight for Carter. It didn't help."

***

You'd think that Marciano would be his favorite fighter, but his idol, it develops, was Jake LaMotta.

After the fight, DeMarco is comforted by fiancee Joann Costonis. A local favorite, the welterweight defeated Saxton before a supportive crowd at Boston Garden.

"I used to sneak in to see him fight when he came to Boston," DeMarco said. "I liked the way he just walked in and punched, and how he could take it."

***

And now it's Carmen Basilio for Tony DeMarco, in Syracuse on June 10, in the first defense of the title.

"I'll win," he said. "I know I'll win. Being champion makes a lot of difference. You have the drive and the push. You don't want to lose what you fought so hard to get. I'll beat Basilio."

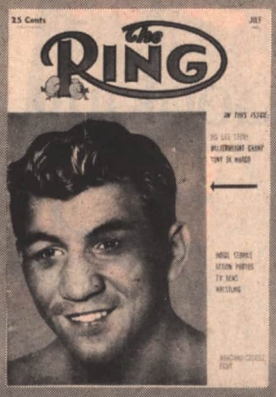
And then?

"I want to take care of my parents They haven't been feeling too good. I'm looking ahead. I'm learning the haberdashery business. I'm going to open a first-class men's store."

The squat, little, black-haired youth, whose scarred features of the ring wars belie the fact that he was an altar boy at St. Stephen's Church, seems to know what he wants. He fooled them when he licked Saxton, and he may fool them again. Maybe it's true that uneasy lies the head that wears the crown, but it's also true that there's no inspirational incentive stronger than owning that crown and wanting to keep it.

Just how good a champion Tony DeMarco will be is something only the future can tell. But this fight business hasn't been a soft snap for Tony, and any kid who learns to overcome early failure and disappointment and finally get to where he wants to go is the sort who'll be tough to beat from here on in. DeMarco got where he is by doing things the hard way, and he isn't going to be pushed around without making it just as hard, if not harder, for the guy doing the pushing. ■

THE RING, July 1955

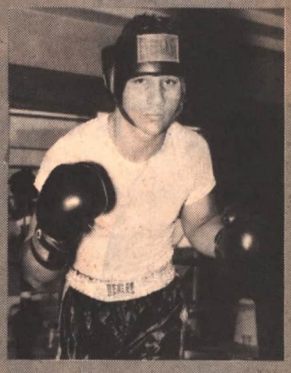


The Cover: Boston's Leonardo Liotta, better known as newly crowned welterweight champion Tony DeMarco, exploded onto the scene with his 14th-round stoppage of defending titlist Johnny Saxton at Boston Garden. Murray Goodman, who profiles DeMarco, portrays him as a fighter of limited skills, but infinite spirit.

The Rock In Frisco: The Ring Editor Nat Fleischer reports from ringside at Kezar Stadium, the site of heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano's ninth-round TKO of British challenger Don Cockell. The Rock, pictured with manager Al Weill, fought in his usual aggressive manner, and Fleischer writes, "In short, if the scene had been London instead of San Francisco, Marciano possibly would have been disqualified . . . "

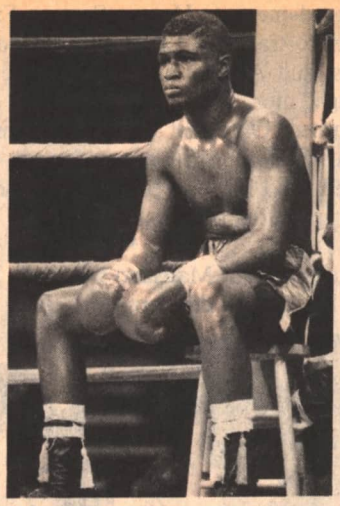
The Best Of Efforts?: Associate Editor Dan Daniel analyzes lightweight champion Jimmy Carter's mysterious penchant for performing poorly in non-title fights. During his three reigns as 135-pound king, Carter has lost five such bouts. Champions, Daniel concludes, should be expected to put forth their best effort in every fight.

Teenage Sensation: Managing Editor Nat Loubet examines streaking light heavyweight Willie Pastrano, who at age 19 seems destined for a world title. Pastrano isn't heavy-handed, but like most of Whitey Esnault's fighters, he's a clever boxer. He stands at 30-4-4 (8).



Fighter Of The Month: Light heavyweight champion Archie Moore is honored, but not for any particular achievements at 175 pounds. On May 2 in Las Vegas, Moore outpointed number-one heavyweight contender Nino Valdes over 15 rounds. He now rates as the top threat to dethrone world titlist Rocky Marciano.

Looking Ahead



Toney doesn't rest often

By Jeff Ryan

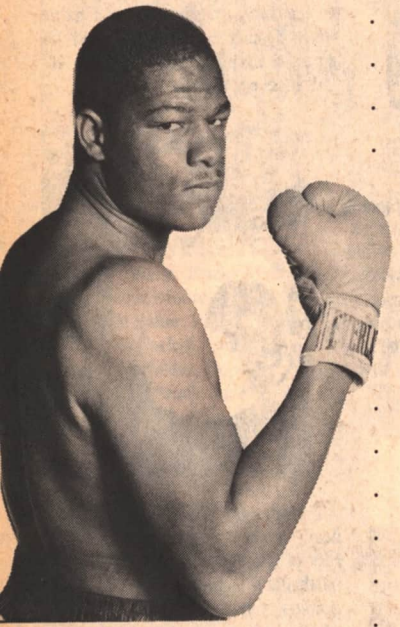
PACEMAKER PROBLEMS?

Even though he looked lifeless in squeezing out a disputed decision against Dave Tiberi, don't expect James Toney to cut back on what has been the busiest schedule of any champion in boxing. Toney's manager, Jackie Kallen, says the IBF middleweight king will meet Tiberi in an April 11 rematch on HBO, then probably fight three or four more times in 1992.

Kallen blamed the dismal showing vs. Tiberi not on Toney's workload, but on his gaining extra weight five days before the fight, then having to lose seven pounds in three days.

"I'm not gonna kill this kid," Kallen says. "But if he's sharp and has no trouble making middleweight, we'll keep to a busy schedule. He's young and healthy, and if he had his way, he'd fight every month."

At least one knowledgeable observer, however, thinks Toney's schedule is a real threat to his reign. Kronk manager-trainer Emanuel Steward says, "Toney's in definite danger of burning out. Marvin Hagler lasted because he had a lot of early knockouts and didn't fight *that* often. Guys who fight often and have long, tough fights, like Toney did with [Michael] Nunn, Reggie Johnson, [Mike] McCallum, and Tiberi, usually don't last long. And when they lose the title, it's to someone you never thought could beat them."



Bowe could be next in line

AND THE NEXT DOMINANT HEAVY IS...

Evander Holyfield is not going to lose to Larry Holmes or George Foreman. Riddick Bowe is not yet going to fight Michael Moorer or Lennox Lewis. With Bowe residing in the top five of all three alphabet ratings, and overtures continually being made by both sides, Bowe-Holyfield is inevitable. One day, we may look back at the matchup as the last hurdle the winner had to climb en route to true dominance on the throne.

If he can top Bowe, Holyfield will have turned back a 6'5", 230-pound puncher and proven that he can match strength with a gifted natural heavyweight. To beat Holyfield, Bowe will have to display the chin and heart that were lacking during his flop at the 1988 Olympics.

After Holyfield-Bowe, Moorer, Lewis, and Razor Ruddock loom. But scaling a pudgy 225-230, Moorer has sacrificed speed for weight, Lewis has faced growth-stunting opposition, and Ruddock has a chasis that's been dented by Mike Tyson. Moorer, Lewis, and Ruddock are all capable of beating Holyfield or Bowe, but right now, all three musketeers would be underdogs.

The winner of Holyfield-Bowe is staring at a road that has its share of bumps and hazards. But right now, it doesn't look like a big threat to flatten the tires on anybody's championship shuttle.

LISTEN UP

The camp of **Michael Moorer** is negotiating for a TVKO battle with **Bert Cooper** or **Pierre Coetzer** on April 24. A win over Coetzer would probably make "The Kronk Krusher" the WBA's top contender. The undercard may feature a **Hector Camacho-Oba Carr** clash. Talk about disparity in purses: Carr will drive away with $100,000, and Camacho $1-million. ■

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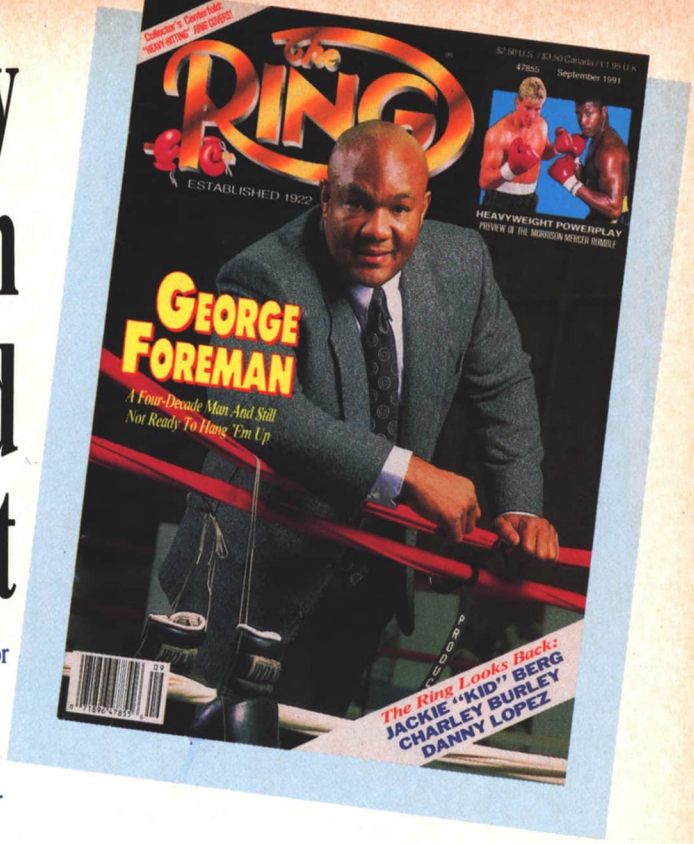

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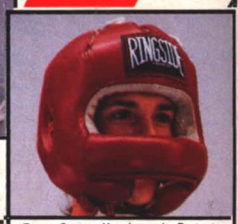

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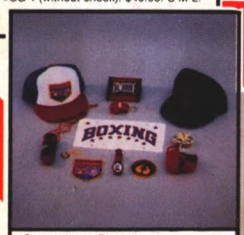

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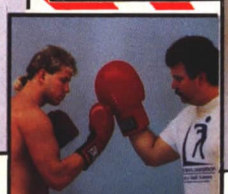

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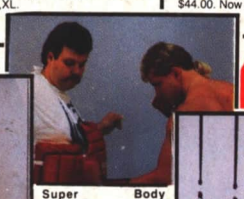
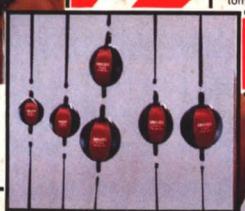
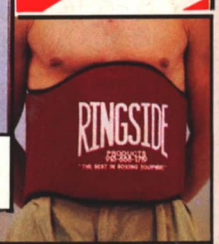
Free Standing Heavy Bag—Realistic action and simplest set-up all in one bag. Use this bag anywhere! Nothing to hang - no holes to drill. Just fill base with sand and work out. Spring return system keeps up the action. #FHB $249.00. Red Only. Add $5.00 to below shipping chart. Must be Pre-Paid.



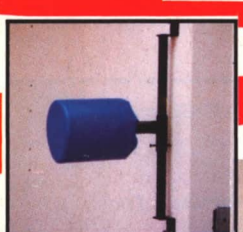
Super Body Protector—Excellent Protection - wrap around design. #SBP $42.00. Heavy Hitter Pad - works with body protector. #SBP-1 (use with SBP) $17.00.



Double End Bags—All leather. Cables included. Reg. size #DEB, small #DEB-1, Peanut #DEB-2, Mini Pro #DEB-3 $36.00, Filled #FDEB $44.00, Double Double End #DDEB $70.00.

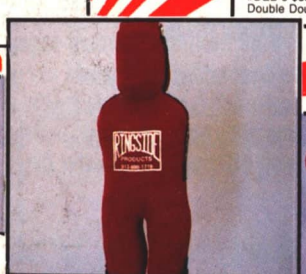


Rib Protector—Great for sparring with sore ribs. Unique design provides great protection. #BRP $18.00.



Wall Ball—Great for learning hooks and uppercuts. Uses wall space that usually goes to waste. All steel frame. #WLB $99.00. Available in Red Only.

Handwraps—Extra long (170") hook & loop closure. Red #HW $4.25. Mexican Style (180") slightly elastic, gold, #MHW $4.25. Junior (120") shorter for smaller hands, #JRHW $3.75.



Exact Target Bag—The most realistic bag ever made! Head has perfect target areas for hooks and uppercuts. Almost like sparring with a real person. Available filled only. Must be prepaid. #ET $139.00. Add $5.00 to below shipping chart.

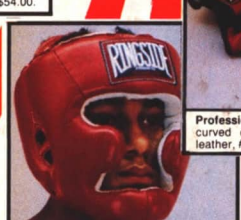
Sparring Gloves—The best. Three styles to choose from. #RP-14 oz., $122.00, #RP-16 oz., $125.00; #RP-18 oz., $130.00; Elastic wrist for easy on and off, #RP-14E, $125.00; #RP-16E, $130.00; #RP-18E, $135.00. Sleek new Mexican style, #RP-14M,$110.00; #RP-16M, $115.00. Prices are for sets of 4 gloves. Pairs available at half set price.

Punch Mitts—Great for learning offense. #PM $45.00.
Coachspar Mitts—Teaches offense and defense. All leather. #CS $54.00.

Cobra Reflex Bag—Super fast spring for hand speed, stability. #CRB (filled) $90.00, #CRBU (unfilled) $75.00. Professional model is heavy duty. #CRB-1 (filled) $110.00, #CRBU-1 (unfilled) $90.00.

Super Gauze—Tight weave 10 ydx2" gauze. #CG-1 (90 rolls) $45.00. Trainers tape - 1"x10 yd. #TT (roll) $1.00, #TTB (15 rolls) $12.00.

Sculptures—Museum quality pieces. Lifelike detail. #LBSC-1 (Ali), #LBSC-2 (Marciano), #LBSC-3 (Louis), #LBSC-4 (Robinson) $39.00.



Full Face Headguard—Excellent protection for entire head. Great visibility. Hook & loop adjustment for the perfect fit. S,M,L. #HGBC $52.00.

Professional Bag Gloves—Special curved design for better fit. All leather, #BGM, BGL, BGXL $24.00.

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